

THE MAINE WILDERNESS ACT OF 1990—S. 2205

HEARING
BEFORE THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY
OF THE
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY
UNITED STATES SENATE
ONE HUNDRED FIRST CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

ON

S. 2205

TO DESIGNATE CERTAIN LANDS IN THE STATE OF MAINE AS
WILDERNESS

APRIL 18, 1990

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THE MAINE WILDERNESS ACT OF 1990—S. 2205

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 1990

U.S. SENATE,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY OF THE
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY,
Washington, DC.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 3:35 p.m., in room SR-332, Russell Senate Office Building, Hon. Wyche Fowler, Jr. (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Present or submitting a statement: Senator Fowler.

Also present or submitting a statement: Senators Cohen and Mitchell.

STATEMENT OF HON. WYCHE FOWLER, JR., A U.S. SENATOR FROM GEORGIA

Senator FOWLER. Ladies and gentlemen, my name is Wyche Fowler, the chairman of the Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry of the Agriculture Committee of the Senate. We are very pleased to conduct this hearing today, and I apologize for being late.

I want to commend Senators Mitchell and Cohen for their efforts in crafting the Maine Wilderness Act which we will discuss today. This legislation would designate 12,000 acres of land in the White Mountain National Forest as wilderness, and of course contains other management provisions.

I have had the good fortune to travel in the wilds of Maine, so I know from personal experience that few States can match it for its unspoiled settings, as well as the power of its scenery. Maine is an inspiration to those who believe in environmental stewardship, a role that State has prominently played at least since Thoreau made you famous.

It is unlikely we can ever do justice to all the lands in Maine that ought to be included as wilderness areas and, in my opinion, brought into the National Park System itself. So far, the mountains, forests, rivers and wildlife of the interior have been largely preserved, simply thanks to their remoteness. But anyone who has sat in the bumper-to-bumper traffic up Highway 95 in the summer knows that, as also in my State with Highway 95, the pressures from commercial and residential real estate development are reaching even into the Maine backwoods.

That is why I am in agreement with my colleagues from Maine that it is important to act now to consider this proposal to evaluate the long-term prospects of some of our Nation's finest natural treasures that do exist in the State of Maine.

I welcome the fine steward, poet, and statesman, Senator William Cohen of Maine, for any remarks he might wish to make.

STATEMENT OF HON. WILLIAM S. COHEN, A U.S. SENATOR FROM MAINE

Senator COHEN. Mr. Chairman, thank you very much, and I appreciate your taking the time to hold today's hearing on the Maine Wilderness Act, S. 2205. I also want to say that it was good of you to accommodate the Maine witnesses. We have a number of people—George Leonard, of course, from the Forest Service, and Chad Converse—but we also have Leon Favreau, Tom Hammond, and Jerry Bley from Maine. It was good of you to accommodate their schedules, as well, by holding the hearing almost simultaneously with that of the House, so they wouldn't have to come down on separate days to Washington testify, some on behalf and some in opposition to the proposal. I do appreciate your accommodating us.

Also, Senator Mitchell could not be here today because he is leading a delegation to the funeral of our colleague, Spark Matsunaga. I do have a statement from Senator Mitchell and I am pleased to have joined him in the sponsoring of this legislation. I have a prepared statement which I hope you will make part of the record, along with Senator Mitchell's.

Basically, this involves a situation, a matter that has been pending for some years now. It goes back to a point where there was an original recommendation for the original 16,000 acres to be included in a wilderness area. Hearings were held. There were a number of objections raised to it.

The Forest Service came up with an alternative recommendation. That was to allow for 12,000 acres to be designated as wilderness, with 4,000 being allowed for multiple use, including the harvesting of timber.

In addition to the Forest Service recommendation, we appointed an ad hoc Wilderness Committee¹ that the Maine congressional delegation established back in 1983. That committee reflected representatives from the forest products industry and the environmental groups. We had local and State governmental representatives, snowmobile representatives, and others, and we tried to get it as broad-based as possible to take into account the conflicting interests. This indeed is a case where we have conflicting interests involved—environmental interests, business interests who feel that they may be jeopardized by the designation as a wilderness area. This committee that we appointed came out and supported the Forest Service recommendation to include 12,000 acres as wilderness with the 4,000 for multiple use.

In addition to that, the Maine delegation, back in November of 1987 held an open public hearing, allowing citizens to testify, to express their opinions. I must tell you it was a very spirited hearing indeed, with a whole range of emotions and positions being articulated, and I thought really a truly outstanding hearing. But ulti-

¹ See p. 53 for the list of the Maine Ad Hoc Wilderness Committee.

mately the delegation came down in favor of the Forest Service recommendation and that of the ad hoc committee.

We do have several large areas of public land suited for wilderness in Maine. We have the Baxter State Park, the Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge, among the few that are set aside for this purpose, but in my judgment there is no other area such as Caribou-Speckled that is matched in terms of its uniqueness.

I don't know whether the chairman has had a chance to travel to this particular region, but it indeed presents a panorama I think that is unique in the State of Maine. There are Mt. Washington and other mountains in the White Mountain range that one can see from this area, as well as all of the foothills and rolling mountains nearby. There are very few preserves of this kind in the State, so I think there is a unique aspect to it.

It also represents, in the classic sense, a compromise. If we were to do nothing, as far as the Maine delegation were concerned, if we do nothing, then the entire 16,000 acres remains designated as wilderness at least for the next several years. How long that may be indeed is speculative at this point. The Forest Service is not scheduled, as I understand it, or would not be scheduled to review this again at least until 1996, possibly beginning in 1996. It could take another 3 or 4 years, so we are looking to the end of the decade before there would be another recommendation.

There are those who would hope that the Forest Service might reconsider and not designate this as wilderness, but perhaps something less, something next to a wilderness designation that would allow for different types of multiple use. There is nothing in my experience that would warrant that conclusion, but hope does spring eternal. It is possible that there might be a change in that recommendation.

It was our congressional delegation's judgment that this was a compromise that would allow the 12,000 acres to be reserved for wilderness and allow the 4,000 for multiple use, which would allow the lumber industries or the wood products industries to have access to the timber that is necessary to keep their people employed. They have a legitimate interest involved, and there is some concern that they may suffer unemployment. The U.S. Forest Service has filed an impact statement which indicates that there would be no diminution of employment in the region as a result of this designation, but that is a matter that you will hear some dispute about here today from the witnesses.

But the congressional delegation came to the conclusion that to "do nothing" is the worst of all possible worlds, because we continue the uncertainty for years to come, and as a matter of fact, the entire area remains inaccessible to the forest products industries as such. So we felt this was a responsible approach to take. We thought it was balanced.

It will allow the preservation of a very unique piece of land in Maine for those who want to enjoy the solitude that that would provide. At the same time, it would provide access to that 4,000 acres, and I think that has to be spelled out very clearly, that we not find ourselves in a situation where the 4,000 acres is set aside for multiple use and then an effort is made to have buffer zones, so that we don't want to have the commercial activities get too close

to the wilderness regions, and we find that there is some conflict that is added.

The second point I would make is that there was an understanding reached, that right now the snowmobilers have access to this region, and an accommodation——

Senator FOWLER. They do have?

Senator COHEN. They do have at this point, and an accommodation or an understanding was reached that an alternative path would be set aside for them to have a comparable site as such, and that probably should be spelled out in the committee's report if it accepts the recommendation. There should be a clear understanding that that was an arrangement that was arrived at by the Forest Service and the snowmobilers.

But I recommend it to the committee, and indeed I think you will have support from the majority of the witnesses who will testify. You will also have opposition from two very prominent people from Maine who have a different view of the need for the designation of this as a wilderness area, but Senator Mitchell and I are in support of it. Congressman Brennan and Congresswoman Snowe have introduced similar legislation in the House, and I believe they had a hearing scheduled this morning, so this really does dovetail into their own hearings over there.

[The prepared statements of Senator Cohen and Senator Mitchell follow:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF HON. WILLIAM S. COHEN, A U.S. SENATOR FROM MAINE

Mr. Chairman, I greatly appreciate the time you have taken out of your busy schedule to hold today's hearing on the Maine Wilderness Act, S. 2205. As you may know, the House is also holding hearings today and tomorrow, and by scheduling the hearings so closely together, we have allowed the Maine witnesses to appear at all three hearings without making three separate trips. And for that, I also thank you.

I am speaking on behalf of Senator Mitchell today, as well. He is in Hawaii attending the funeral of our colleague, Spark Matsunaga, and sends his apologies for not being here to testify in support of S. 2205. I have his statement here, which I ask be placed in the record.

I am pleased to join with Senator Mitchell in sponsoring legislation that designates a 12,000-acre wilderness area in the White Mountain National Forest in Maine. The area would be called the Caribou-Speckled Mountain Wilderness. Identical legislation was introduced in the House by Representatives Olympia Snowe and Joseph Brennan.

In designating the 12,000-acre wilderness area, this legislation would also release an additional 4,000 acres to multiple use, including timber harvesting as called for in the Land and Management Plan for the White Mountain National Forest. I believe this provision will end uncertainty over the future management of the entire 16,000 acre roadless area that was reviewed by the U.S. Forest Service during the development of the forest plan, and that is currently being managed as wilderness.

Finally, the bill reiterates language in the Wilderness Act that authorizes continued State regulation of fish and game activity in the area and allows the Forest Service to take whatever measures are deemed appropriate to control fire, insects, and disease in the wilderness area.

While it is not mentioned in the legislation itself, one issue remains to be resolved by the Forest Service. As a result of wilderness designation, one snowmobile trail that goes to the top of Speckled Mountain would have to be closed. During discussions about the Forest Service's proposed 12,000 acre wilderness study recommendation, it was agreed that the Forest Service would locate an alternative trail that might offer Maine's snowmobilers a similar high-terrain experience. The delegation expects that the Forest Service would proceed to resolve this matter after the legislation is approved. Perhaps the committee could express that intent in report language, so it is clear that this needs to be accomplished.

S. 2205 is based not only on the Forest Service's Forest Plan recommendations, but also on the recommendation of the Maine Ad Hoc Wilderness Committee, established by the Maine Congressional Delegation in 1983. The committee consisted of representatives of the forest products industry, environmental groups, local and State government, snowmobilers and others. In 1984, the committee voted in favor of the Forest Service's preferred alternative, which was the designation of the 12,000 acre wilderness area and the release of the remaining 4,000 acres to nonwilderness uses.

In 1986, the Forest Service issued its Final Plan for the White Mountain Forest, which included the 12,000 acre wilderness recommendation. Extensive public comment was received by the Service, and significant support for the wilderness designation was evident at that time. In addition, the Delegation held a public hearing in Bethel, Maine, in November 1987, at which time further public comment was solicited.

While some segments of the timber industry in Maine oppose wilderness designation in Maine, the delegation has agreed, after reviewing the circumstances in this section of the forest, that the resolution of this matter as proposed is in the best interests of Maine citizens.

Designation of the 12,000-acre Caribou-Speckled wilderness will preserve a relatively undeveloped parcel of forest land for future generations. While portions of the area were harvested at one time or another, harvesting has not occurred in over 20 years, and what did occur before then was very selective. What remains, then, is a large, fairly mature hardwood forest that is not found elsewhere in the State.

Maine has few large areas of public land suited to the wilderness experience—Baxter State Park and the Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge are among the few that have been set aside for this purpose. The creation of the Caribou-Speckled Wilderness Area will add another dimension to this experience, since it differs from the type of forest found in the other areas.

In addition to being a mature hardwood forest, the Caribou-Speckled forest also boasts two mountain peaks a few miles apart. To the west, hikers can view the majestic peaks of Mt. Washington and other mountains in the White Mountain range. Views in other directions provide a panorama of western Maine's foothills and rolling mountains. There are few preserves of this kind in Maine, and certainly none of this size.

The other component of our bill, the release of the remaining 4,000 acres, provides the means for the forest products industries and other nonwilderness users to have access to forest resources. Timber sales are scheduled in this area in the near future, and this will allow for adequate timber supply levels.

Since the Forest Service issued its recommendation in 1986, the entire 16,000 acre area has been managed as wilderness. If the delegation did not act on the 12,000-acre recommendation, the remaining 4,000-acre area would remain off-limits to timber harvesting and other nonwilderness uses for an indefinite period of time.

Under the provisions of the National Forest Management Act, the Forest Service is expected to revise its forest plans every 10 to 15 years. A review of the White Mountain National Forest would therefore begin between the years 1996 and 2000. At that time, the Forest Service would again review the 16,000-acre roadless area, but there is no precedent to show that the agency would, or could, alter its recommendation and release the entire area or a lesser portion of it to nonwilderness uses.

Just what the Forest Service would do is unknown, and I believe that this situation is the worst of all possible worlds. The uncertainty and debate over this matter would go on, to no one's benefit, for many years to come. There is little reason to allow this to happen when it has been debated so extensively already.

Since wilderness is one of the forms of multiple use included in the Multiple-Use Sustained Yield Act and is sanctioned in the Wilderness Act of 1964, it is important that it be offered as an option for the public, where appropriate. It is certainly appropriate in this case.

At the same time, local industries depend on the national forest for much of their timber supply. It is also important that this relationship be maintained so that the quality sawlogs needed by the forest products firms continue to be made available. The Forest Service has stated, in its environmental impact statement, that the designation of the 12,000-acre wilderness would not diminish that supply.

Overall, this compromise should bring about the most balanced use of the national forest in Maine. Those who desire to hike and camp in the forest in relative solitude will have that opportunity, but the tradition of access to public timber by forest-dependent industries in Maine will also continue.

This issue has been under consideration for some time, and has had extensive review by the Maine congressional delegation, local officials, private industry, Maine residents, and various advocacy groups. I believe it is time to act on this proposal, and I hope that your subcommittee will look favorably on it.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF HON. GEORGE J. MITCHELL, A U.S. SENATOR FROM MAINE

Mr Chairman, thank you for allowing me to come before the subcommittee to testify in support of S. 2205, the "Maine Wilderness Act of 1990."

I very much appreciate your willingness to schedule today's hearing. I'm pleased to be joined this afternoon by my colleague Bill Cohen, who is cosponsoring this legislation.

Later this afternoon you will hear from two Maine individuals who have played leading roles in the consideration of wilderness designation for Caribou-Speckled, Jerry Bley of the Natural Resources Council of Maine and Leon Favreau, president of the Bethel Furniture Stock Company. Also testifying today will be Thomas Hammond of Hammond & Son, a lumber company in Hiram, Maine.

Mr. Chairman, the Caribou-Speckled Mountain Roadless Area in the Maine portion of the White Mountain National Forest contains 16,000 acres.

This area, 2 hours north of Portland, is one of the last large undeveloped tracts of land in Maine. It contains no roads, has not seen any logging for many years, contains a wide variety of wildlife and plant species and many spectacular views and opportunities for solitude and relative isolation from the intrusions of modern life. According to the Forest Service, it meets the legal requirements for wilderness.

S. 2205, would designate 12,000 acres in the Caribou-Speckled Area in the Maine portion of the White Mountain National Forest as wilderness. The remaining 4,000 acres are to be released for multiple-use.

I want to make two important points about this legislation.

First, it comes to you based on an extended process of public discussion, study, evaluation, deliberation, negotiation, and compromise involving the Forest Service, the Maine congressional delegation, and a variety of interested parties including the timber products industry, conservation groups, State and local governments, snowmobilers, and regional planning agencies.

In the fall of 1984, the Forest Service, in its draft management plan for the White Mountain National Forest, recommended that 12,000 of the 16,000 acres in Caribou-Speckled Area be studied by Congress for possible wilderness designation.

In the Forest Service's final forest plan, some minor modifications to the boundaries of the originally proposed wilderness area were made, but the recommendation to designate 12,000 acres as wilderness and release 4,000 acres for multiple-use remained the same.

In November 1987, the congressional delegation held a hearing in Bethel, Maine, on the wilderness recommendation. We heard from a wide number of individuals and groups on the recommendation.

In the time since then, the delegation has met several times to discuss this legislation and we have continued to listen and survey interested parties about the implications and potential impacts of wilderness designation for this area.

Secondly, Mr. Chairman, this bill represents a compromise that we believe balances the many, some times competing, interests this Nation places on its national forest.

Originally, a number of conservationists had pressed for wilderness designation for the entire 16,000 acres of Caribou-Speckled. Many representatives of the forest products industry on the other hand opposed any wilderness designation for Caribou-Speckled.

In the course of the Forest Service's planning process, they have compromised and as a result, 4,000 acres of the roadless area will be released for mixed use management.

If no action was taken, the entire 16,000 acres would remain managed by the Forest Service so as to retain its wilderness character. The issue would remain unresolved, there would be no access to the area's timber by local wood-using industries and there would be no permanent protection of the area as wilderness. That would be in no one's best interests.

Wilderness designation for Caribou-Speckled not only has bipartisan support, it has bicameral support. At hearings this week in the other body, the other Members of Maine's congressional delegation, Representative Olympia Snowe and Representative Joe Brennan will be speaking in favor of identical House legislation introduced by Representative Snowe.

I hope that the full committee will be able to consider this legislation in the coming weeks so that we in Maine will be able to finally conclude the debate over wilderness designation for Caribou-Speckled.

Mr. Chairman, once again, I want to thank you for scheduling this afternoon's hearing and for allowing me an opportunity to testify before you.

Senator FOWLER. Well, thank you very much. Thank you for your leadership in this and so many other areas on behalf of your State. Of course you are welcome to stay, but——

Senator COHEN. I have an Intelligence hearing going on right now.

Senator FOWLER [continuing]. I will let you go to check on the CIA.

We will call our first panel: Mr. George Leonard, the Associate Chief of the Forest Service; Mr. Jerry Bley, resource specialist for the National Resources Council of Maine; Mr. Leon Favreau, the president of Multiple Use Association, Bethel, Maine; and Mr. Thomas Hammond, Thomas Hammond and Son, National Forest Products Association, Hiram, Maine.

Gentlemen, welcome. Make yourselves comfortable. Mr. Leonard, it is a pleasure to have you, as always. I will let you begin.

STATEMENT OF GEORGE M. LEONARD, ASSOCIATE CHIEF, U.S. FOREST SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, DC; ACCOMPANIED BY CHAD CONVERSE, DISTRICT RANGER, WHITE MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST, EVANS NOTCH RANGER DISTRICT, BETHEL, ME

Mr. LEONARD. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have with me Chad Converse, who is the District Ranger for the area including the wilderness, and he can be responsive to any questions you have specifically about that area.

Senator FOWLER. Good. Welcome, Mr. Converse.

Mr. CONVERSE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SUPPORTS ENACTMENT OF THE MAINE WILDERNESS ACT AS INTRODUCED

Mr. LEONARD. Mr. Chairman, the Department of Agriculture supports enactment of the Maine Wilderness Act as introduced. This is a unique area in this part of Maine. It is not pristine wilderness. As found throughout the Eastern United States, most of these areas have had activity. Most of these areas have been logged, in some cases 2 or 3 times.

But there has been no activity on substantial parts of it in the last 20 years, and much of it has been over 50 years since there has been activity, and it has substantially recovered in terms of the vegetation. The evidence of past human activities in the area, logging roads and what not, are still visible to the trained eye, but to the casual observer it is, in fact, remote and undeveloped lands. Because of the inaccessibility of the area, as referred to by Senator Cohen, it does present some opportunities for solitude that are not available in many of our wilderness areas here in the East.

We think that there has been probably more public involvement in the development of this proposal than most any wilderness bill that has been considered by the Congress in recent years, and there is a substantial consensus among the parties who participat-

ed in that effort. Just shortly ago in discussing this bill with the House, there was concern that our prepared testimony suggested that there was opposition from the snowmobile associations and groups, and that is not true. There is some opposition from some individual members or individual snowmobilers. The association, the Maine Snowmobilers Association, as I understand it was part of the consensus process and does support the bill as presented. Some representatives from the timber industry will be testifying to their concerns.

In spite of that concern, we believe that the proposal is well crafted and this is a good use of this tract of land, and we recommend that it be added to the wilderness system.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Leonard follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF GEORGE M. LEONARD, ASSOCIATE CHIEF, FOREST SERVICE,
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, DC

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer our views on S. 2205, the "Maine Wilderness Act of 1990."

The Department of Agriculture recommends enactment of S. 2205.

The 16,000-acre Caribou-Speckled Mountain Roadless Area is within the Evans Notch Ranger District on the White Mountain National Forest.

Prior to the early 1900's, private owners logged virtually all of the lands within the Caribou-Speckled Mountain Area. After Federal acquisition as part of the White Mountain National Forest, the commercial forest land within the area continued to provide timber for local mills into the 1960's. Evidence of this past logging is still apparent, however, revegetation is complete.

Topography is typical of the rugged White Mountain landscape, varying from foothills to rocky peaks. The highest point is Speckled Mountain at 2,906 feet. Several brooks originate within the area, and some have waterfalls and cascades that are especially scenic. Vegetation is composed of northern hardwoods, eastern hemlock, and white pine growing on the lower and mid-slopes, with spruce and fir at the higher elevations.

Because of poor highway access, only about 19,000 people visit the area annually. Such low use has the benefit of allowing wonderful opportunities for visitors to find solitude.

Over 25 miles of trails provide good access within the area. The majority of use is day-hiking, however, there is some use by trail bikes, all-terrain vehicles, and snowmobiles on one designated motorized trail that goes to within one-eighth mile of the summit of Speckled Mountain.

Some individuals oppose wilderness designation for the area. In particular, snowmobilers would be affected, as the trail to the summit of Speckled Mountain would be closed to motorized vehicles if S. 2205 is enacted. If the area is designated, we would consider construction of a substitute snowmobile trail to another nearby summit in order to mitigate the effect of the trail closure.

Mr. Chairman, the Caribou-Speckled Mountain Area has a long history of consideration for wilderness designation, beginning in the 93d Congress when four bills were introduced. In 1977, the Forest Service identified the area as a "wilderness resource" in the Evans Notch Unit Plan Environmental Impact Statement.

Most recently, during development of the White Mountain National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, the Forest Service, with public participation, developed a consensus regarding a wilderness study proposal for the area.

During those discussions, we determined that 4,000 acres of the best timber growing lands within the 16,000-acre roadless area should not be studied for possible wilderness designation. The remaining lands within the roadless area produce only minor amounts of commercial timber that are not important to the overall needs of the local timber industry.

As a result of the consensus process, the forest plan allocates the 4,000 acres of good timber lands to nonwilderness uses, including timber management. The remaining 12,000 acres—the same area S. 2205 would designate—is recommended for wilderness study.

We believe that there is now a consensus that the area should be designated. Enactment of S. 2205 would end the uncertainty regarding future management of the Caribou-Speckled Mountain Area.

This concludes my testimony. I would be pleased to answer questions.

Senator FOWLER. Thank you very much, Mr. Leonard, for your usual conciseness. We appreciate that.

Mr. Bley, do you want to go next?

**STATEMENT OF JERRY A. BLEY, RESOURCE SPECIALIST,
NATURAL RESOURCES COUNCIL OF MAINE, AUGUSTA, ME**

INTRODUCTION

Mr. BLEY. Sure. Mr. Chairman, my name is Jerry Bley and I am the resource specialist for the Natural Resources Council of Maine. The council is a statewide conservation organization dedicated to the protection of Maine's environment and the wise use of the State's natural resources.

I am here today on behalf of the council's 7,500 members as well as nine other local, State and national organizations that have worked with the council over the past 7 years to put forward this proposal for the Caribou-Speckled Mountain Wilderness Area. A list of those organizations is attached to my testimony.²

Senator FOWLER. The whole testimony will be made a part of the record.

Mr. BLEY. Thank you very much, and several of them have submitted their own written testimony.

THE NEED FOR A CARIBOU-SPECKLED WILDERNESS AREA

The State of Maine has a very rich wilderness heritage, but the fact of the matter is that only a very tiny fraction of the State of Maine has been set aside in its natural state. Baxter State Park and a small section of the Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge are the only public lands in the State that have been protected as wilderness.³ It is far less than 1 percent of the land base of the State of Maine. There are no wilderness reserves in the southern portion of the State, which includes forest types and habitats that are substantially different than those in the northern preserves.

The legendary Maine Woods have long offered the best of outdoor experiences, as you have noted, and provided critical habitat for a wide array of wildlife and plant life, but the wildness that is the Maine Woods is fading fast. In the 1980's Maine experienced an unprecedented development boom that brought land speculators focusing their sights on the North Woods of Maine, and tens of thousands of acres were subdivided, land that had traditionally been managed for multiple-use forestry, the future of which is unknown now. Also, modern forest management practices in terms of extensive clear-cuts, extensive pesticide use, an extensive road network, biomass harvesting, various techniques, have really changed the face of the woods.

² See p. 18 for Attachment 1: List of Organizations That Have Actively Supported the Establishment of a Caribou-Speckled Mountain Wilderness Area.

³ See p. 19 for Attachment 2: Wilderness in Maine.

My purpose here today is not to comment on or criticize those practices, but to simply state that in a time when the environment is changing so rapidly, there is a critical need to protect certain key areas of Maine and other places in their natural state.

The Caribou-Speckled Mountain region is the only region in the State where a national forest wilderness could be established. There are no other eligible areas, due to the Federal Government's very limited ownership in the State of Maine.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CARIBOU-SPECKLED MOUNTAIN AREA

Now let me turn very briefly to the attributes of the area that make it so special to the people of Maine and would make it a very valuable addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System. The Caribou-Speckled Mountain Area is the largest remaining roadless area in the southern part of the State. It is an area of great natural beauty, and I have supplied your committee with an album of some photos⁴ of the area to give you a firsthand perspective of what the terrain is like. It includes spectacular mountain summits that offer views of the Presidential Range. It includes dozens of waterfalls and gorges and cascading brooks, and provides fantastic sights each fall with the changing foliage.

Caribou-Speckled is also an area of abundant and diverse wildlife and plant life. Its vegetation ranges from rare alpine plants on the summit of Caribou Mountain to some of the most extensive mature forest stands that can be found in the State today. It includes a major deer wintering area and habitat that supports a wide variety of both game and nongame wildlife.

The area is extensively used by hikers, hunters and campers. It is an area that is favored by groups such as the Boy Scouts, the many summer camps found in western Maine, and the Outward Bound program in western Maine.

Since the great expansion in the logging road network that the State of Maine has seen over the past 15 years, there has been a dramatic reduction in the availability of remote outdoor recreation experiences. The Caribou-Speckled Area provides one of those experiences, and the Forest Service itself has identified it as a very outstanding area in that regard.

THE VALUE OF WILDERNESS DESIGNATION

The only change in recreational use resulting from the designation will be the one spur snowmobile trail up Speckled Mountain. As the Forest Service stated, there has been an agreement that they will look for an alternative site for that, something that has been supported by the Maine Snowmobilers Association, as well as my organization, and others. It is a part of the compromise proposal.

THE IMPACTS OF WILDERNESS DESIGNATION ON THE TIMBER INDUSTRY

Let me turn now to the question of the impacts of the designation on the forest products industry.

⁴ Attachment 3: Photographs are retained in the subcommittee file.

As has been suggested or stated beforehand, the proposal before you today is a compromise proposal that was first put forward by the Forest Service and later refined through negotiation between certain conservation interests and the forest products industry. It has resulted in the removal of more than 4,000 acres of the best timberland of the area, and has left the remaining 12,000 acre proposal.

Nonetheless, there are still certain individuals in the forest products community that oppose the compromise proposal. Therefore, I think it is important that you and this committee understand exactly what the impacts of the designation will be.

I think the Forest Service, in the National Forest Plan for the White Mountain National Forest, stated it most directly and succinctly, and I quote from them:

Eliminating timber harvesting from the 12,000 acre area would have no discernible effect on local wood using industries. Volumes of wood harvested from the National Forest will remain at current levels and quality of logs will increase in the future.

The area being proposed for wilderness represents only 1.2 percent of the potential timber yield of the White Mountain National Forest, and represents less than one-half of 1 percent of the potential timber yield from the western Maine region.⁵

The Forest Service's conclusions have been endorsed and confirmed by Mr. Lloyd Irland, who is one of the foremost forest economists in the State of Maine, our former State economist, and have also been affirmed by the Department of Conservation in the State of Maine.

MAINE PEOPLE SUPPORT A CARIBOU-SPECKLED WILDERNESS

The delegation endorsed and sponsored this legislation only after the wilderness issue had undergone exhaustive study and full and open debate by Maine people.

In 1984 the Forest Service conducted a public survey, offered the public an opportunity to submit comments, and at that time over 75 percent of the people responding endorsed wilderness. A majority of the people from Oxford County, which is the area where the wilderness area is located, supported wilderness as well.

CONCLUSION

Let me just conclude my testimony today with a quote from I guess the most famous wilderness advocate from the State of Maine, and that is the late Governor Percival Baxter, who single-handedly was responsible for protecting the Mount Katahdin region and protecting the park which now bears his name. In 1957 he was angered by a proposal to spend \$1 million in Baxter State Park to develop facilities there, and he responded to this proposal in the press by stating:

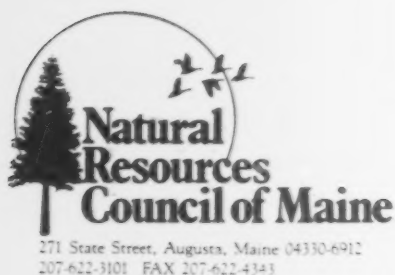
You can't improve upon nature. That's the beauty of the park. It's natural. Baxter Park was created for a special purpose. Some day—maybe in your day—there won't be any real wild areas left. This park may be the only place where future generations can see Maine as it really was.

⁵ See p. 20 for Attachment 4: Facts Concerning the Timber Resources of the Proposed Caribou-Speckled Mountain Wilderness Area.

Percival Baxter's words of 30 years ago I think have proven all too prophetic in the State of Maine. However, we still have a chance around Caribou and Speckled Mountains to follow in Governor Baxter's footsteps and present a little bit more of the Maine Woods for the people of Maine and this country to cherish and enjoy into the future.

I want to thank you for this opportunity to present this testimony, and I urge you and your committee to give swift passage to this legislation. Thank you.

[The prepared statement and attachments of Mr. Bley follow:]



**STATEMENT OF JERRY A. BLEY
OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES COUNCIL OF MAINE
BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY
OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY
AT A HEARING ON S. 2205, THE MAINE WILDERNESS ACT OF 1990,
APRIL 18, 1990**

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, my name is Jerry Bley and I am the Resource Specialist for the Natural Resources Council of Maine. The Natural Resources Council of Maine is a statewide conservation organization dedicated to the protection of Maine's environment and the wise use of the state's natural resources.

I am speaking here today on behalf of the Council's 7500 members as well as nine other local, state and national organizations that have joined together in this effort to establish a Caribou-Speckled Mountain Wilderness Area in the Maine section of the White Mountain National Forest (see Attachment #1 for list of groups). Over the past seven years, the Natural Resources Council has coordinated this important land preservation effort and I am extremely pleased to be before you today to speak in strong support of the Maine Wilderness Act of 1990 sponsored by Maine's Congressional Delegation.

The Need for a Caribou-Speckled Wilderness Area

The State of Maine has a rich wilderness heritage, but the fact is that only a tiny fraction of the Maine landscape--less than one percent--has been set aside to be preserved in its natural state. Baxter State Park and a small section of the Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge are the only public lands protected as wilderness (See Attachment #2). No wilderness reserves exist in the entire southern portion of the state which includes forest types and habitats different from those found in the existing northern preserves.

The legendary Maine Woods have long offered the best of outdoor experiences and provided critical habitat for many forms of life; but the wildness is fading fast. In the 1980s, Maine faced an unprecedented development boom. Maine's wildlands became, for the first time, the target of large land speculators and developers resulting in the subdivision of tens of

thousands of acres of forest land that had traditionally been managed for multiple uses. Furthermore, modern forest management practices including extensive clearcuts, biomass harvesting, widespread pesticide spraying, and an extensive network of forest roads have left few reminders of the woods that were.

My purpose here today is not to comment on such practices, but to simply state that at a time when our environment is changing so rapidly, it is critically important that we set aside a few key areas to be preserved in their natural state. Of Maine's 18 million acres of forest land, the Maine Critical Area's program has been able to identify only 7,000 acres of virgin old growth forest--just 7,000 out of 18 million acres.

The Caribou-Speckled Mountain region is Maine's only opportunity to establish a national forest wilderness; there are no other eligible areas due to the fact that the federal government's ownership is extremely limited in Maine. In fact, Maine is unique among states in that most of its forest land is privately owned. Only five percent of the state is in public ownership.

The Importance of the Caribou-Speckled Mountain Area

Now let me turn to the attributes of this area that make it special to the people of Maine and a valuable addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System. The Caribou-Speckled Mountain area is the largest remaining roadless area in the southern portion of Maine. It is named for its two tallest peaks--about 3000' high--and includes a number of lesser peaks and open ridges. It is an area of great natural beauty: barren mountain peaks offering spectacular views of the Presidential Range; dozens of waterfalls, gorges, and cascading brooks; and the brilliant colors of the fall foliage (see photos in Attachment #3).

Caribou-Speckled is also an area of abundant and diverse wildlife and plant life. Vegetation ranges from rare alpine plants on the summit of Caribou Mountain to some of the most extensive mature forest stands remaining in the state. The area has not seen any logging activity since the 1960s, and most sections of the proposed wilderness area have not been logged in over 50 years.

A major deer wintering area is located in the area. Available habitat supports healthy populations of bear, moose, grouse, and many other game and non-game species. The area has been identified by the Forest Service as a potential reintroduction site for the peregrine falcon.

The Caribou-Speckled Mountain area is used extensively by hikers, hunters, and campers. It is a particularly popular destination for families who choose not to climb the taller peaks of the White Mountains. It is also an area favored by groups such as the boy scouts, Outward Bound, and the many summer camps in Western Maine.

With the tremendous expansion of the logging road network over the past 15 years, it has become possible to drive almost anywhere in the Maine Woods, reducing the availability of high quality remote recreation opportunities. According to the Forest Service, the Caribou-Speckled area offers "outstanding opportunities for non-motorized recreation and solitude."

The Value of Wilderness Designation

Establishing a Caribou-Speckled Mountain Area will ensure that the natural values of the area and the recreational opportunities they offer will be preserved for future generations. Those that recreate in the Caribou-Speckled area will be able to continue to do so in the future without any changes. They will be assured that no new roads, clearcuts, or developments of any type will change the wild character of the area they have come to love.

The only change in recreational use will be the closing of a steep snowmobile spur trail up Speckled Mountain which is used by certain adventurous snowmobilers in the winter when the conditions will allow. The Forest Service has agreed to look for a similar trail on another mountain in the area, a plan supported by the Maine Snowmobile Association which has endorsed the proposal before you today.

Wilderness designation will ensure that at least a small piece of Maine's forest lands can provide habitat for those plants and animals, discovered and yet to be discovered, that prefer or require such undisturbed forest lands. In doing so, we help to maintain the natural diversity of our state.

Furthermore, the area will provide an ecological benchmark in a changing world; a place where scientists can evaluate the impacts of phenomena such as the greenhouse effect and acid rain on Maine's forests. It can also provide a control to evaluate the implications of various forest management practices. Forest products is Maine's largest industry and therefore it is critically important that we have the best possible understanding of natural forest processes. A Caribou-Speckled Wilderness can greatly assist in that endeavor.

The Impacts of Wilderness Designation on the Timber Industry

As you are aware, the proposal before you today represents a compromise that was originally proposed by the Forest Service and refined through an agreement hammered out between representatives of the forest products industry and the conservation community. I was one of the individuals involved in negotiating that compromise that resulted in the removal of more than 4000 acres of prime timber land from the 16,000 acre wilderness study area.

Nonetheless, there remain some people in the forest products community who remain opposed to this compromise proposal. Therefore, I think it is important for this committee to

have a clear understanding of what impact wilderness designation will have on the region's forest products industry.

The Forest Service, itself, answered this question directly and succinctly in the White Mountain National Forest Plan. And I quote:

Eliminating timber harvesting from the 12,000 acre area would have no discernable effect on local wood using industries. Volumes of wood harvested from the National Forest will remain at current levels and quality of logs will increase in the future.

Of the proposed 12,000 acre wilderness area, only 4,300 acres have been identified by the Forest Service as commercial forest land. The rest consists of barren mountaintops, steep slopes, and other sites unsuitable for harvest activities. Based on data provided by the U.S. Forest Service, the potential timber yield of the Caribou-Speckled area represents just 1.2% of the potential yield of the White Mountain National Forest and about one half of one percent of the potential timber yield of the Western Maine region (see Attachment #4).

Lloyd Irland, one of Maine's and the country's foremost forest economists testified on this issue at a 1987 public hearing in Maine hosted by the Maine Congressional Delegation. Mr. Irland is the former State Economist for the State of Maine, former Director of the State's Bureau of Public Lands, and the author of several books and dozens of articles on forests and forest economics. After analyzing available data, Mr. Irland came to the exact same conclusion as the Forest Service. He stated:

The potential contribution to supply of the Caribou-Speckled area under multiple-use management is small...The White Mountain National Forest contains surplus mature and overmature growing stock and has abundant unused opportunities for profitable management. There is therefore no reason why WMNF sale offerings or cut levels should fall as a result of devoting Caribou-Speckled to wilderness. (See Attachment #5 for an outline of his full testimony.)

Maine's Department of Conservation has concurred with the Forest Service's and Mr. Irland's conclusions and to date, no evidence has been put forth by any party that conflicts with these conclusions.

Maine People Support A Caribou-Speckled Wilderness

Maine's Congressional Delegation sponsored this legislation only after the wilderness issue had undergone exhaustive study and a full and open debate by Maine people. In 1984, the U.S. Forest asked for public input on a proposed Caribou-Speckled wilderness. Over 800 individuals and groups responded, with over 75% favoring wilderness. Most of those people,

in fact, supported a larger 16,000 acre wilderness. A majority of the respondents from Oxford County, where the proposed wilderness area is located, supported wilderness.

When the Maine Delegation introduced this legislation, the editorial response from newspapers around the state was unanimously in strong support of the proposal (see Attachment #6).

Conclusion

I expect that many people testifying before this committee on wilderness issues have quoted the likes of John Muir, Aldo Leopold and Bob Marshall. In Maine, when you talk about wilderness, the person you quote is the late Governor Percival Baxter, who singlehandedly was responsible for the preservation of Mount Katahdin and the surrounding wilderness park which bears his name.

I would like to conclude my testimony with a statement from Governor Baxter made to the press in 1957, when he was angered by a proposal to spend \$1 million to develop facilities in Baxter Park. His response to the proposal was:

You can't improve upon nature. That's the beauty of the park. It's natural. Baxter Park was created for a special purpose. Some day--maybe in your day--there won't be any real wild areas left. This park may be the only place where future generations can see Maine as it really was.

Percival Baxter's words have proven to be all too prophetic. However, we still have a chance--at Caribou and Speckled Mountains--to follow in his footsteps and preserve a little bit more of the real Maine Woods for the people of Maine and the country to enjoy and cherish.

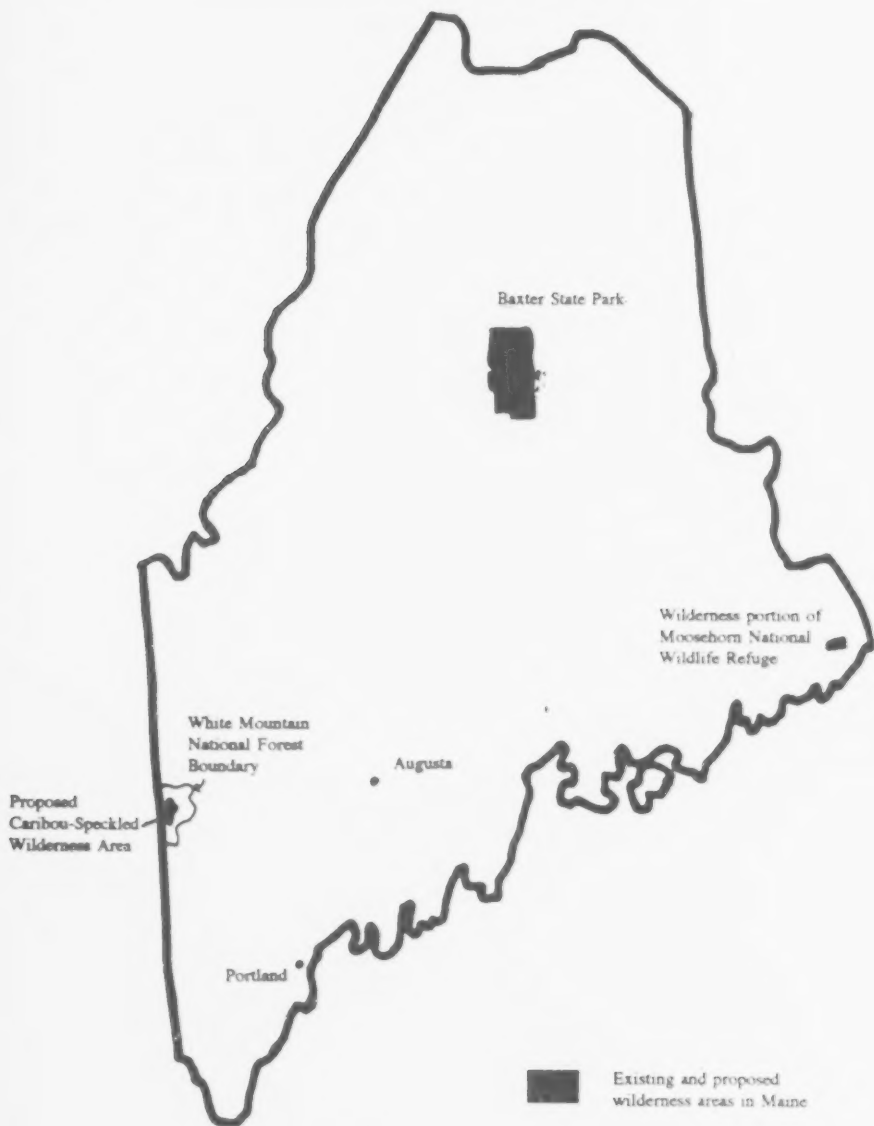
Thank you for this opportunity to testify before your committee. I sincerely hope you will support swift passage of the Maine Wilderness Act of 1990.

Attachment #1

**LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE ACTIVELY SUPPORTED
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A
CARIBOU-SPECKLED MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS AREA**

Abnaki Outing Club
Cold River Camp and the Chatham Trails Association
Kezar Lake Association
Maine Audubon Society
Maine Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club
Maine Group of the Sierra Club
National Wildlife Federation
Natural Resources Council of Maine
Western Maine Chapter of the National Audubon Society
The Wilderness Society

WILDERNESS IN MAINE



ATTACHMENT #3 IS RETAINED IN THE SUBCOMMITTEE FILE.

FACTS CONCERNING THE TIMBER RESOURCES OF THE
PROPOSED CARIBOU-SPECKLED MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS AREA

Commercial forest land (in acres)

<u>WMNF</u>	<u>Western Maine</u>	<u>Car-Speck</u>
345,000	1,200,000	4,300

Potential timber yield (in million board feet/year)

<u>WMNF</u>	<u>Western Maine</u>	<u>Car-Speck</u>
69 mmbf	100 - 200 mmbf	.8 mmbf

Caribou-Speckled timber resources as a percentage of larger resource.

By Acreage

<u>WMNF</u>	<u>Western Maine</u>
1.2%	.3%

By Potential Yield

<u>WMNF</u>	<u>Western Maine</u>
1.2%	.4% - .8%

WMNF = White Mountain National Forest

Western Maine = Franklin and Oxford Counties

Source of Information: U.S. Forest Service

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POTENTIAL IMPACT OF CARIBOU-SPECK
WILDERNESS DESIGNATION ON WESTERN MAINE HARDWOOD
TIMBER SUPPLY

Lloyd C. Inland
The Inland Group, Augusta, Maine
Notes for presentation at Bethel, ME
Nov 14, 1987

SCOPE AND PURPOSE

These notes summarize key facts concerning the timber market impacts of Caribou-Speck timber¹ production potential. They are confined to this topic only and do not address the positive rationale for wilderness designation. Western Maine here refers to Franklin and Oxford Counties.

OUTLINE

1. Economic pressures on Western Maine hardwood-using industries.
2. Changing hardwood timber and log supply in Western Maine.
3. Relation of Caribou-Speck productivity to the regional timber market.
4. Conclusions
5. Qualifications
6. Attachment: "Importance of high quality timber to Maine's economy."

.....the inland group

ECONOMIC PRESSURES

1. Wood-using industries are critical to Western Maine's economy:
 - manufacturing accounts for 43% of the jobs.
 - wood using industry accounts for 57% of manufacturing jobs.
2. Western Maine is the heartland of Maine's hardwood specialty products industry
3. Competition from competing raw materials
 - plastics
 - metal
4. Competition from competing regions and species
 - South
 - Midwest and West
 - Tropical hardwoods--Ramin etc.
5. Labor supply trends
6. Log supply, cost, and quality (next point)

.....the inland group

HARDWOOD TIMBER AND LOG SUPPLY

1. Western Maine contains about 1.2 million acres of hardwood timberland, up 4% from 1971-82.
2. Hardwood sawtimber inventory in the region was up 11% from 1971-82. (live trees larger than 11.0" at breast height and suitable for sawlog products)
3. Hardwood growing stock inventory rose 25% from 1971-82 (all live trees 5.0 " and larger that are not culls.)
4. Hardwood log production in 1981 roughly balanced total cut, at about 20 million bd ft, but there were significant imports and exports that roughly cancelled each other.
5. Fuelwood and biomass production indirectly compete with solid wood product mills for timber.
6. Canadian buyers bid up prices for high quality logs.
7. Land use changes and parcel fragmentation reduce supply of small owner wood.
8. Quality of the inventory is declining.
9. Labor shortages in logging hinder log procurement.
10. Log supply and quality are continuing concerns of wood users in the area, but they are far from being the only significant economic challenges.

.....the inland group

CARIBOU-SPECK PRODUCTIVITY AND THE REGIONAL TIMBER MARKET

1. The WMNF produces roughly 69 million bd ft of timber, mostly hardwood. This is significant to the supply for mills in the region.
2. The proposed 12,000 acre Caribou-Speckled Wilderness Area contains roughly 4,300 acres of commercial timberland. Probably an equal amount of land is subdivided and otherwise removed from the timber supply in Western Maine each year.
3. The 4,300 acres of Caribou-Speck hardwood forest is equal to three tenths of one percent of the region's hardwood timberland.
4. The potential contribution to supply of the Caribou-Speck under multiple use management is small, no more than 800,000 bd ft.
5. The annual hardwood sawtimber growth in Western Maine is on the order of 100-200 million bd ft (Caribou-Speck, 4,300 acres = 0.4% - 0.8% of this).
6. The WMNF is not the only large landowner in Western Maine. Private firms own large areas of hardwood timberland, much of which is sold on the open market. Those

.....the island group

caribou-speck: 5

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owners have abundant incentives to upgrade hardwood management.

7. The difficulties experienced by mills in buying high-quality, large size logs are due to a host of factors and not only to forest land availability for cutting.

8. The WMNF contains surplus mature and overmature growing stock and has abundant unused opportunities for profitable management intensification. There is therefore no reason why WMNF sale offerings or cut levels should fall as a result of devoting Caribou-Speck to wilderness.

.....the inland group

CONCLUSIONS

1. Hardwood using industries are important to Western Maine's economy. They are subject to many strong competitive pressures.
2. Log supplies are deteriorating in availability and quality, but log supply is only one factor affecting mill survival. In turn, land availability is only one influence on log supplies.
3. Caribou-Speck acreage, inventory, and potential yield are tiny compared to regional timber resources and production potential.
4. There is no reason why WTNF timber sale and cut levels need to decline at all as a result of Caribou-Speck wilderness designation.

.....the inland group

Lewiston Sun-Journal, March 5, 1990

Maine Sunday Telegram, March 4, 1990

Sun-Journal

Editorials

The wilderness bill

After seven years of debate over how land should be used in the area of the Caribou and Speckled mountains in southwestern Maine, the state's congressional delegation has devised a logical solution.

Maine Sens. George Mitchell and William Cohen and Reps. Olympia Snowe and Joseph Brennan submitted identical legislation in both the Senate and House last week that would preserve 12,000 acres as wilderness while opening up another 4,000 acres for timber harvesting.

While both the environmentalists and the paper-making industry would have preferred the entire pie, it's a solution that should accommodate both interests nicely. And with the entire delegation solidly behind the bill, it's almost guaranteed to pass muster in Congress.

What the bill will mean is that generations to come will be able to enjoy the beauty of Maine in its purest form. Keeping the 12,000 acres in their current pristine state will not only allow unique recreational opportunities, it will also enable scientists to study changes in the old-growth hardwood forest without fear that development is pushing their way.

On the other hand, the paper industry, which is certainly part of Maine's lifeblood, can use the new resources in the prime timberland to help it remain viable in future years.

'New' wilderness

□ Maine and the nation got a big present last week in the form of some of the most spectacular mountain territory around these parts. Maine's congressional delegation announced it is filing bills to protect a large area of the White Mountain National Forest in western Maine as a wilderness preserve.

When we talk about preserving public land in this state, our thoughts generally run to coastal property or lake regions. That's a very myopic view of Maine, which has a rich geographical variety worth preserving for future generations.

Action by Congress represents the final step in a plan that has been two decades in the making to extend wilderness protection to 12,000 acres in the Caribou Mountain and Speckled Mountain area. It is an unspoiled region marked by sheer cliffs, waterfalls, giant birches and breathtaking mountain scenes.

The proposal to preserve the area, part of a U.S. Forest Service master plan for the entire White Mountain National

Forest, is virtually certain of congressional approval.

The plan is not without its critics. Those who believe that forest lands are best served by multiple uses have actively fought the proposal, which limits development within the preserve primarily to hiking trails. Road-building, timber harvesting, snowmobiling and other such undertakings would be forbidden.

Bethel businessman Leon Favreau, an outspoken opponent of the proposal, blamed the decision to preserve the wilderness on "well-intentioned people who base their environmentalism in aesthetics and the notion that nature is best left alone."

Actually, it results from the rapid development boom of recent years which has threatened to overrun just about every available patch of open space in the state.

We have a right to be nervous about running out of nature to pass on to future generations. The Caribou-Speckled Mountain project should prove as calming as it is exhilarating.

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EDITORIALS

One piece in wilderness puzzle

Agreement by the Maine delegation on preserving 12,000 acres of the Caribou Speckled Mountain wilderness in the White Mountain National Forest is a red-letter day for conservationists.

Squabbling over this notable piece of the wild Western Mountain region of Maine — which includes such notable ranges and peaks as Bigelow, Saddleback, Goose Eye, and Old Speck — has been going on since the late '70s, when it was studied as part of a national "roadless area review" process. Congress has been involved since 1983, when a White Mountain wilderness bill was introduced.

Now, seven years later, with the unanimous agreement of the delegation and the Forest Service, the wilderness designation should finally be applied.

Some conservation groups are disappointed because the entire 16,000-acre study area was not included. In the new proposal, which closely follows a 1984 Forest Service recommendation, some 4,000 acres would still be open to logging. But the most prized parts of the Evans Notch area, including the Speckled and Caribou summits, will be included. No roads, motorized vehicles, logging, or campgrounds will be permitted.

And none too soon. Evans Notch, which runs along the Maine-New Hampshire border, has long been the best kept secret in the White Mountain National Forest, whose number of yearly visitors rivals Acadia National Park's 5 million and surpasses most national parks.

Yet in recent years, second home development has been creeping right up to the national forest boundary.

Caribou Speckled Mountain is only the second federal wilderness area designated in Maine, the other being 4,000 acres of grassland in the Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge at the other end of the state, on Cobscook Bay. That's all there is.

The situation isn't much different at the state level: there's the crown jewel of Maine wilderness, Baxter State Park, including Katahdin and its environs. The Bigelow Range is now mostly protected. But of the other, much smaller state parks, few have any wilderness qualities.

To outsiders, the vast Maine Woods is unbounded wilderness, but Mainers know better: it's really an enormous working forest, with particularly notable features preserved by informal agreement with the landowners, mostly paper companies.

But that protection can be exceedingly fragile, as enthusiasts of the magnificent West Branch of the Penobscot found when Great Northern proposed a dam in the middle of its best whitewater and salmon fishing run. The dam project, narrowly averted in 1985, could reappear. Last month, the Legislature refused to give it an "AA" designation to put it off limits to dams.

The new White Mountain wilderness represents a tiny portion of available timber in the Western Mountain region — less than a half of 1 percent.

Despite this action, and recent state efforts to purchase land, these are only early steps toward preserving at least a small portion of Maine in its natural state.

Senator FOWLER. Thank you, Mr. Bley, very much.
Mr. Favreau.

**STATEMENT OF Y. LEON FAVREAU, PRESIDENT, MULTIPLE USE
ASSOCIATION, GORHAM, NH**

INTRODUCTION

Mr. FAVREAU. Good afternoon, and thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Leon Favreau, and I am president of the Multiple Use Association. Our association is comprised of individuals and companies concerned about the future health of the forest and the promotion of good forest management practices. Since being formed as a grassroots organization in 1987, we have had rapid growth. While most of our members are located in the Northeast, we have members across the United States, and we have networked with many associations from different parts of the country. Our message has been well received by all who have heard it, and our hats, T-shirts, and bumper stickers with our moose/forest scene and our slogan, "Promote Healthy Forests—Support Multiple Use," have become popular items.

WE ARE TESTIFYING AGAINST THE MAINE WILDERNESS ACT OF 1990

Today we are testifying against the Maine Wilderness Act of 1990 to designate 12,000 acres of the Caribou-Speckled Mountain Area of the White Mountain National Forest as Federal wilderness. While we do believe there is a need for some wilderness-designated areas, we are opposed to designating this area as wilderness for the following reasons:

**WE ARE OPPOSED TO DESIGNATING THIS AREA AS WILDERNESS FOR THE
FOLLOWING REASONS**

First, this legislation does nothing to correct the many environmental problems our country faces.

Second, this legislation creates conflicts between people. It pits rural dweller against urban dweller; working man against professional; those who don't like control over their lives against those who like to control others; most forest recreationists against some backpackers; aesthetic enthusiast against forest scientist.

Third, it is not healthy for the forest. Our northern New England forests need management to remain healthy. Our wildlife needs forest floor vegetation that only comes through management, and our trees die from disease and other stresses at a relatively young age. Left forever wild, this area would contribute in its own relatively small way to global warming due to the rotting of trees and the higher susceptibility to forest fires.

Fourth, local people have demonstrated that they are against this legislation. The only time that preservation forces seemed to have support for this legislation from the public was a survey done by the U.S. Forest Service in 1984, before Multiple Use Association was formed and during a time that local people, including myself, did not know the survey was taking place. At that time, organized efforts by preservation groups showed them to have some support. In 1987, a public forum on the issue of possible designation of

Caribou-Speckled as wilderness, held in Bethel, Maine, showed that local people were overwhelmingly opposed to this designation.

Fifth, for those people who want a wilderness experience, there are 102,000 acres of wilderness in the White Mountain National Forest, only 12 miles away from the Caribou-Speckled Mountain Area. One of these areas, the Pemigewasset, is the second largest U.S. Forest Service wilderness-designated area east of the Mississippi. Only exceptionally scenic areas of this 102,000-acre preserve receive heavy use.

Sixth, we feel that the dedicated wilderness enthusiast will not be satisfied with his wilderness experience in the Caribou-Speckled area. From the mountaintops, it will be impossible to distinguish wilderness from nonwilderness areas in the White Mountain National Forest, and to distinguish either from private land.

OUR ASSOCIATION FEELS IT HAS A BETTER ALTERNATIVE FOR THIS LAND
THAT WILL BENEFIT ALL

Our association feels it has a better alternative for this land that will benefit all. We ask that you leave the 12,000-acre Caribou-Speckled area in its present unmanaged state until the next forest planning period, which will be 5 to 10 years from now. Waiting until then will make little difference. It would simply delay the possible removal of a mountaintop shelter and two tent platforms. At the time of the next planning period, we feel that we can get good public support for the following:

First, designation of approximately 7,700 acres that does not contain commercial timber in a U.S. Forest Service near-wilderness designation. The primary use would be restricted backpacking, but it would allow the U.S. Forest Service to manage the area for disease and fire control.

Second, the existing snowmobile trail would remain for winter use.

Third, the harvesting of trees on approximately 4,300 acres of commercial timberland. Harvesting would occur only when the trees are mature, and would be done mainly by the selective tree method. Views from the mountaintops would continue to be outstanding, and there would be an appearance of complete forest cover.

WE ASK FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO UNDERTAKE A MASSIVE
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Between now and the next forest planning period, we ask for the Government to undertake a massive educational program to teach the public both the scientific benefits of harvesting and wilderness ethics. We feel that some of the public has misperceptions about the effects of harvesting, and the existing wilderness and near-wilderness areas are being degraded by recreationists who do not understand the reasons for that designation and the required actions needed by the visitors to keep the forest from degrading.

CONCLUSION

Our association feels that our way will reduce conflicts among people, will be healthier for the forest and wildlife, will benefit the

environment, and will keep the forest attractive for our generation and for future generations to come.

I would like to thank you again for giving me the opportunity to express the views of the Multiple Use Association. I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

[A letter with attached material from Mr. Favreau, president, Multiple Use Association, follows:]

Multiple Use Association
Star Route 52A
Gorham, N.H. 03581



Tel. 207-836-2624
Fax 207-836-2200

April 30, 1990

The Honorable Wyche Fowler, Jr.
Chairman, Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry
United States Senate
204 Senate Russell Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Fowler:

I appreciate you arranging your schedule to hold the Hearing on S. 2205, The Maine Wilderness Act of 1990 in conjunction with the House Hearings on the same bill. I was very pleased that you showed concern for the resident wildlife on the White Mountain Forest and particularly the effect on wildlife of curtailing vegetation management. You requested backup information on my comments so I submit for the record:

1. The article I wrote, "Preserve the Forests By Harvesting the Trees," which was published in the Christian Science Monitor on March 19, 1990. A section on wildlife management starts with the second paragraph in the right hand column.

2. Items out of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the White Mountain National Forest that were submitted to the public for review in 1984. Page 11-83 is a graph of Wildlife Populations for different alternatives. I have written above each bar the acreage of vegetation management that is allowed for each alternative out of the total 261,000 acres.

The bar graph clearly shows that timber management is compatible with wildlife management. Alternative 4, which opens the most land to timber harvesting, also provides for the largest wildlife populations of all the alternatives. By contrast, Alternative 3, with the least amount of land open to timber management, will support the lowest wildlife numbers of all the alternatives, at less than half the potential population of Alternative 4.

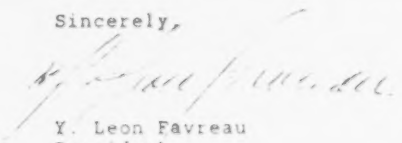
The population estimates shown on page IV-32 demonstrate that Alternative 4 provides for equal or greater population levels for 11 of the 13 indicator species identified in the forest plan. For the other two species, the Cape May Warbler and the Eastern Kingbird, Alternative 4 provides the second highest populations compared to alternatives 1, 2, 3, and 5. Alternative 5, with the second highest acreage managed for timber, would provide larger numbers of Eastern Kingbirds. Alternative 1, with moderate timber acres compared to other alternatives, provides only slightly higher numbers of Cape May Warblers than Alternative 4. I have circled related paragraphs on pages 111-7 and XV.

3. Mariko Yamasaki and Richard DeGraff, Research Biologists with the USFS in Durham, New Hampshire have recently studied the relationship between wildlife habitat and forest condition in Northern New England. From much information and many field studies, they have found the following wildlife indications towards the listed forest conditions.

<u>Forest Condition</u>	<u>Expected Wildlife</u>
Closed Forest Canopy	18 species
Open Land	48 species
Combination of Both	168 species

Again, we appreciate your interest in what is good for wildlife. It distresses local people who work closely with the land when policies are mandated by government that are based on misperceptions and may result in harm to the environment.

Sincerely,



Y. Leon Favreau
President

Preserve the Forests By Harvesting the Trees

By Y. Leon Favreau

AMERICA is on an environmental kick and that's great. In response to this concern, many environmental associations are trying to find ways to better the environment. However, not all these groups are created equal. Forest preservation groups sell themselves as being environmental, and they claim to do what is best for the environment. And yet, according to Ron Arnold, author of natural-resource books such as "Ecology Wars," "there is no area where environmental groups misrepresent themselves more than when it comes to forest preservation."

The main goal of special interest groups advocating forest preservation is to reduce or stop harvesting of trees and to designate large tracts of forest as wilderness or parks. They feel nature is its own best manager, and that humans shouldn't interfere. But is forest preservation good for the environment?

All forests have similarities, but there are dramatic differences between areas. In northern New England, trees die naturally at a relatively young age (50 to 150 years). However, when harvested, New England forests re-seed naturally, providing a renewable resource.

The White Mountain National Forest is a good example of a forest that has renewed itself. Most of the forest was cut and/or burned at the turn of the century, and while few trees were planted, today the forest's beauty and health place it among the top five most-used national forests in the country. Scenic driving is its most popular use.

Trees are beneficial to the environment for many reasons, but the primary reason is photosynthesis. In this process, trees consume carbon dioxide and produce oxygen. If trees are not harvested, as in wilderness areas or parks, they die from insects, fire, ice storms, or disease. When this happens, photosynthesis is reversed and the rotting or burning trees consume oxygen and release carbon dioxide.

In a forest fire, each burning tree releases, in a few minutes or hours, all the carbon dioxide it consumed in its lifetime - negating the benefits of photosynthesis. This contributes to the greenhouse effect, a major concern for our planet today. Over-mature forests have a low rate of photosynthesis and are more susceptible to stress and fire than younger forests. The devastating fire that consumed so much of Yellowstone Park two years ago is a good example of photosynthesis reversal and what can happen in an unmanaged forest.

Wise use of natural resources makes more sense economically and environ-

mentally than no-use recommendations of preservation groups. When a tree is harvested and processed into fine furniture or a house, the carbon is stored, rather than emitted. Manufacturing residues are used to produce other useful products and for energy. We can burn wood efficiently so that it is not harmful to the environment; wood can replace nonrenewable, polluting fossil fuels. The ash from wood-burning is a natural fertilizer that can help young trees grow up to 15 percent faster, thereby improving the photosynthesis process.

Preservation groups claim their policies help wildlife. In reality, timber harvesting and wildlife management are more compatible. John Lanier, biologist with the US Forest Service, says, "Ninety percent of our local wildlife species benefit sometime in their life from tree growth zero to 10 years old or young succession."

Wildlife numbers are higher in a young growth forest than in mature forests because of plant life on the forest floor usable as food. Those species that prefer old growth usually live well in a maturing stand of a multiple-use forest. The best of all worlds is a mosaic of young and maturing growth alternating over periods of time.

Wise use of natural resources makes more sense economically and environmentally than do the no-use positions of preservation groups.

Forest preservation groups place too much emphasis on single species they claim are rare or endangered. Protecting these species is important, but sometimes the special interests groups can't protect the forest for the trees. The most important thing in the forest is the tree. Without it, there is no forest. Making sure the tree life is healthy is the best way to insure the many other parts of the forest will also remain healthy. Let's not discard several generations of scientific knowledge about the management of forests in the name of a single species.

Many people have strong negative feelings about the appearance of a recently harvested forest, despite the fact that it appears unnatural only temporarily. This concern for appearance shouldn't be sold as environmentalism but as the aesthetic advocacy that it is. While some of us who advocate wise use and management of forests at times disagree with those who advocate preservation, our position is pro-environment.

This country is fortunate to have officials calling for massive planting of trees to supplement planting done by the timber industry in areas that don't have natural regeneration. These trees will help the environment while the forests are young and healthy, but unless current forest preservation trends change, we will simply be storing our carbon dioxide and passing it on to future generations. On top of that, future generations will have less wildlife to enjoy.

Y. Leon Favreau is president of the Multiple Use Association, Carham, N. H.

Wildlife Habitat Capability*

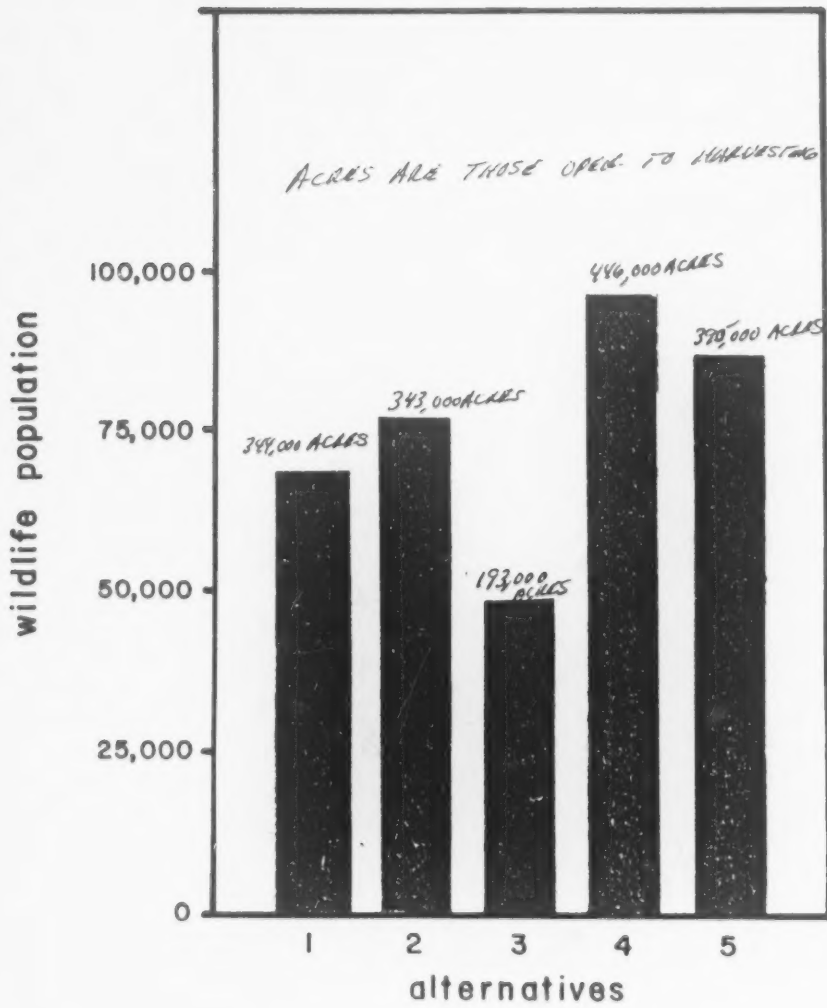


FIGURE 13

* Expressed in potential populations of indicator species at steady state conditions.

TABLE IV-1: POPULATION ESTIMATES OF INDICATOR SPECIES 1/

	Alternatives				
	A1	Z/	A2	A3	A4
* Timber Acres Factor Total/4000	344,000	344,000	344,000	193,000	346,000
Indicator Species Est. Population per 4000 acres. Assume desired competition objectives are met, and full potential population is reached.			86	48.2	111.5
					98
Opossum	1.87 pair	300.0	200.0	100.0	200.0
Chestnut-sided Warbler	98.07 pair	7,600.0	8,400.0	4,700.0	10,500.0
Ruffed Grouse	75.75 pair	2,900.0	6,500.0	3,700.0	8,400.0
Broad-winged Hawk	.45 pair	30.0	40.0	22.0	50.0
Cape May Warbler	128.0 pair	15,700.0	11,600.0	6,200.0	14,300.0
Gray-cheeked Thrush	10.0 pair	1,400.0	1,400.0	1,400.0	1,400.0
Blackpoll Warbler	30.0 pair	4,300.0	4,300.0	4,300.0	4,300.0
Eastern Kingbird	3.0 pair	40.0	20.0	100.0	400.0
Mourning Warbler	33.36 pair	200.0	2,400.0	1,600.0	3,700.0
Eastern Bluebird	1.00 pair	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	32,600.0	35,500.0	22,200.0	43,600.0	39,700.0
	X 2	X 2	X 2	X 2	X 2
Subtotal Animals	65,200.0	71,000.0	44,300.0	87,200.0	76,300.0
Gray Squirrel	300.0	300.0	200.0	400.0	400.0
White Tailed Deer	2,000.0	3,000.0	1,600.0	3,800.0	3,400.0
Snowshoe Hare	300.0	2,500.0	1,400.0	3,200.0	2,900.0
Subtotal	2,600.0	5,800.0	3,200.0	7,400.0	6,700.0
TOTAL	68M	77M	88M	95M	86M

1/ Although these indicate ideal steady state outputs the rate at which they reach steady state depends upon implementation especially the amount of timber cut. This is the prime tool for reaching desired composition objectives. The habitat management units when meeting composition objectives would have the same diversity but the forest diversity would vary by alternative because the number of habitat management units utilized.

2/ Current composition acres are used to determine populations.

3/ These species are dependent on other than managed areas (spruce fir above 3,000 feet, or orchards therefore optimum populations are generally constant throughout the alternatives).

4/ These figures are based on current research and literature. When multiplied by acres, the results are rounded to the nearest one hundred.

D.E.I.S.

9. Timber

Although 500,000 acres of the Forest are currently classified as commercial forest, only 344,000 acres (46% of the Forest) are being managed for timber production. Existing designated wilderness, scenic areas, natural areas, and some recreational areas are excluded from the acreage being managed for timber production.

The 344,000 acres being managed for timber produce an annual harvest of 38 million board feet, approximately 32 million board feet in hardwood and 6 million board feet in softwood. Long term sustained yield is 66 million board feet. The Forest is currently managed exclusively under an even-age silvicultural system. *

Timber harvesting affects 4,500 acres annually, of which 2,000 acres are final regeneration cuts and 2,500 acres are intermediate cuts. Cultural work is done on approximately 1,800 acres annually both in and outside of harvest areas. There is no land area currently managed for biomass production.

10. Visual

The vast majority of the Forest (720,000 acres) is currently natural in appearance. The most noticeable visual changes are on 26,000 acres that were clearcut during the past 20 years. These cutover areas generally have shorter vegetation and appear more dense and uniformly stocked than other parts of the Forest.

Timber management activities generally result in noticeable openings--regeneration cut areas and timber access road rights of way. Consistent levels of harvest and even-age management have produced those changes at steady rates. The visual impacts of Forest Service management activities are mitigated by design and placement of those activities.

Limited use is made of visual enhancement practices and techniques along major travel corridors.

Some visual changes result from the six alpine ski areas located totally or partially on National Forest lands. The areas appear as elongated openings with lift towers on mountain slopes and associated base facilities.

11. Wildlife Habitat Capability

Forest wildlife includes animals typical of all vegetative successional stages from newly disturbed to climax. Timber cutting and other management projects provide habitat diversity. *

Approximately 400 species of mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians inhabit the Forest. These species of wildlife are an important element in the experience of the Forest user. Some of the species are unique and draw significant public attention.

Timber harvesting may affect fish habitat by causing sedimentation in streams and changing stream temperatures. Both are mitigated by applying standards and guidelines that distribute and minimize harvesting activity in the streamside zone.

The economic effect varies with the outputs of each alternative. On the basis of the current mix of products it is estimated that for each additional one million board feet harvested, twenty-four new jobs are created and total income to the local economy is increased by about \$420,000. *

Visual Quality - Changes in visual quality are usually associated with timber management, mineral development, downhill ski areas, and utility corridors. The changes are creation of openings or development of facilities that modify the appearance of the landscape. By integrating visual management into all Forest activities landscape character is maintained or improved to acceptable standards. Major positive effects are the social value of this landscape and the revenues generated by tourist who are attracted to the area because of its scenic qualities.

7 Wildlife Habitat Diversity - Habitat diversity is directly related to opportunities for timber management. Alternative 4 provides the most diversity, followed in descending order by alternatives 5, 2, 1, and 3. Greater diversity improves the Forest's ability to supply native wildlife species.

Economic Efficiency - Present Net Value is the common measure used to indicate economic efficiency. Alternatives 5 and 2 have the highest PNW followed in order by alternatives 4, 3, and 1.

Community Well-Being - Community well-being is very specific to the community involved. Alternatives with large timber outputs would be most favorable to timber oriented communities. Those alternatives with increases in dispersed and developed recreation would favor those communities that provide recreation services. Those alternatives with the largest amount of nonroaded areas would be most favorable to communities wishing to minimize visual change.

Other Effects - There are no management actions within the alternatives that would hinder achievement and maintenance of resource outputs or impair long-term productivity. Planning activities are coordinated with State and local governments and the Green Mountain National Forest, to ensure complementary planning efforts. Those alternatives with the greatest outputs will have the highest energy requirements. There are no adverse environmental effects that cannot be mitigated by the Forests standards and guidelines. The only irreversible commitment of resources is mineral extraction. Wilderness allocation and permanent roads are the only irretrievable commitments of resources.

Senator FOWLER. Thank you very much, Mr. Favreau. I will have a few questions for all of you after we get everybody in. I thank you for your testimony.

Mr. Thomas Hammond from Hiram, Maine.

**STATEMENT OF THOMAS HAMMOND, THOMAS HAMMOND & SON,
HIRAM, ME, ON BEHALF OF THE NATIONAL FOREST PRODUCTS
ASSOCIATION**

INTRODUCTION

Mr. HAMMOND. Thank you. I am Thomas Hammond, of Thomas Hammond and Son in Hiram, Maine. I appear here today representing the National Forest Products Association.

**WE WISH TO GO ON RECORD IN OPPOSITION TO THE MAINE WILDERNESS
BILL**

We wish to go on record in opposition to the Maine Wilderness bill, because the land designation for wilderness is inappropriate and may adversely impact the local economy. Further, the release language contained in the bill needs to be modified to be effective, in light of changed circumstances.

**MY INTEREST IN THE AREA UNDER CONSIDERATION IS NOT ONLY
RELATED TO MY JOB AS A LUMBER MANUFACTURER**

My interest in the area under consideration is not only related to my job as a lumber manufacturer. My family has lived and worked in the area for generations. My grandfather was a Maine tour guide on these same mountains and lakes. He was a true outdoorsman and environmentalist. He instilled in me a tremendous love for the land and a desire to nurture and protect it.

Currently, less than one-half of the White Mountain National Forest is managed for timber. With the rapidly diminishing land base in the Northeast, due to development and pressures other than that, we cannot afford expanded set-asides with restricted access to more acres for single-purpose use by a fortunate few.

Of the 12,000 acres proposed for wilderness, 4,300 acres are well-managed hardwood forests which have been selectively harvested in 1900, 1930, and 1960. It is precisely this type of management that has created this beautiful forest that some would now have us lock up. The Forest Service has done an exemplary job of managing this land for multiple use. Left unmanaged and unprotected, forest fires and other natural ravages can easily occur, leaving a piece of unsightly land that no one would wish to visit.

**I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO ADDRESS SPECIFICALLY THE RELEASE PROVISIONS
OF THIS BILL AND THE EFFECT THE LEGISLATION WOULD HAVE ON
THE MANAGEMENT OF OTHER LANDS IN THE WHITE MOUNTAIN NA-
TIONAL FOREST**

While I am here to oppose the designation of the Caribou-Speckled Wilderness, I would also like to address specifically the release provisions of this bill and the effect the legislation would have on the management of other lands in the White Mountain National Forest.

The release language contained in the bill is intended to release another 4,000 acres from further wilderness consideration until the next forest planning cycle. Once released, these lands would be managed for multiple-use purposes, including recreation and timber harvesting.

However, the traditional release language used in the bill is no longer appropriate because it is tied directly to the RARE II process, and that process has been superseded by planning under the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (NFMA).

The traditional wilderness release language, which only precludes judicial review of wilderness decisions made under RARE II, does not preclude judicial review of wilderness decisions made under an NFMA forest plan.

Some Members of Congress have already recognized that a problem exists with the traditional wilderness release language and that it needs to be updated. This recognition can be found in the Senate report on the Idaho National Forest Wilderness bill, and in a bill introduced by Senator Conrad Burns to designate wilderness in Montana.

Unfortunately, the Maine Wilderness bill used the standard release language and will not, we believe, be effective in releasing roadless areas not designated as wilderness for multiple-use management under the White Mountain National Forest plan.

RELEASE LANGUAGE WE RECOMMEND

For effective wilderness release language, we recommend the following:

First, the release language should provide that the Forest Service not reconsider Congress' decision to release roadless areas during the 10 to 15 year life of the forest plan. This is a commonsense position that Congress and the forest plan have already decided against the wilderness status.

Second, it should not allow judicial review of the Forest Service actions allocating roadless areas to nonwilderness management for the life of the forest plan. Such language would meet the intent of the traditional release language, to insulate the Forest Service's roadless area recommendations from further litigation after Congress has made a wilderness decision.

Third, finally, we support the language contained in the Maine Wilderness bill which prohibits the creation of a buffer zone around wilderness areas precluding nonwilderness uses. This prohibition is essential to provide some degree of certainty for nonwilderness land designations.

SUMMARY

In summary, we oppose the land designation in the Maine Wilderness bill because it is ill-conceived and because of its potential impacts on the local economy. However, if enacted, the release language must be updated to provide certainty to the decisions made under the current planning process.

Thank you for this opportunity to present our views.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Hammond follows:]

STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD

OF

THOMAS HAMMOND

THOMAS HAMMOND & SON

HIRAM, MAINE

ON BEHALF OF

THE NATIONAL FOREST PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

SENATE AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY COMMITTEE

OF THE

UNITED STATES SENATE

APRIL 18, 1990

Good afternoon, I am Thomas Hammond of Thomas Hammond and Son, in Hiram, Maine. I appear here today representing the National Forest Products Association.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify at today's hearing on the Maine Wilderness bill which would set aside approximately 12,000 acres of the Caribou-Speckled area in the White Mountain National Forest as wilderness. We wish to go on record in opposition to this legislation, because the land designation for wilderness is inappropriate and may adversely impact the local economy. Also, the release language contained in the bill needs to be modified to be effective in light of changed circumstances.

My interest in the area under consideration is not only related to my job as a lumber manufacturer. Our family has lived and worked in the area for generations. My grandfather was a Maine tour guide on these same mountains and lakes. He was a true outdoorsman and environmentalist, and he instilled in me a tremendous love for the land, and a desire to nurture and protect it. I have a deep respect for the forest, mountains, streams, and lakes which, in my view, are now under pressure from those who do not know the area and are seeking to lock it up with limited access.

Currently less than half of the White Mountain National Forest is managed for timber. With the rapidly diminishing land base in the Northeast -- due to development and other pressures -- we cannot afford expanded set-asides with restricted access to more acres for single-purpose use by an elite few.

We give credit to the Forest Service for the job the Agency has done for years in managing this forest while protecting it from abuse. Past and current management have made the area attractive, and these techniques have proven to be effective in maintaining the character of the land base.

Of the 12,000 acres proposed for wilderness, 7,700 acres are not designated for timber management under the forest plan. Though these lands are not currently designated wilderness, they can be enjoyed in their natural state. The topography also precludes their development. The remaining 4,300 acres are well managed hardwood forests which have been harvested in 1900, 1930 and 1960. It is precisely this type of management that has created this beautiful forest that some would now have us lock up. The Forest Service has done an exemplary job of managing this land for multiple use. Left unmanaged & unprotected, forest fires and other natural ravages can easily occur leaving a piece of unsightly land that no one would want to visit.

The release language contained in the bill is intended to release approximately another 4,000 acres from further wilderness consideration until the next forest planning cycle -- approximately 10 years. Once released these lands would be managed for multiple use purposes, including recreation and timber harvesting.

However, the traditional release language is no longer appropriate because it is tied directly to the RARE II process, and that process has been superseded by planning under the National Forest Management Act (NFMA).

Each forest plan and associated environmental impact statement (EIS) evaluates roadless areas and makes decisions based upon: (1) which roadless areas should or should not be recommended to Congress for disposition as wilderness; and (2) which currently-roadless areas not recommended for wilderness status will be either administratively retained in roadless management or placed under management allowing multiple use and road development.

Thus, the forest plans and their accompanying EISs are the documents which currently support the Forest Service's wilderness recommendations, not RARE II and its accompanying EIS. This means that the traditional wilderness release language, which

only precludes judicial review of wilderness decisions made under RARE II, does not preclude judicial review of wilderness decisions made under an NFMA forest plan.

In a recent court case concerning roadless areas within the Idaho Panhandle National Forest (Idaho Conservation League v. Mumma), environmental groups challenged the adequacy of the forest plan and EIS to support decisions which did not recommend 43 roadless areas for wilderness designation, and did not retain all roadless areas as roadless in the future. If the plaintiffs are successful, they could tie up these roadless areas in litigation for years. The traditional release language is ineffective against such challenges, as I have already described.

Some members of Congress have already recognized that a problem exists with the traditional wilderness release language and that it needs to be updated. This recognition can be found in the Senate Report on the Idaho National Forest Wilderness bill and in a bill introduced by Senator Conrad Burns to designate wilderness in Montana.

Unfortunately, the Maine Wilderness bill used the standard release language and will not, we believe, be effective in releasing roadless areas not designated as wilderness for multiple use management under the White Mountain National Forest plan.

For effective wilderness release language, we recommend the following:

1. The release language should provide that the Forest Service not reconsider Congress' decision to release roadless areas during the 10-15 year life of the forest plan. This is a common sense position that Congress and the forest plan have already decided against wilderness status.
2. It should not allow judicial review of Forest Service actions allocating roadless areas to nonwilderness management for the life of the forest plan.
Such language would meet the intent of the traditional release language, to insulate the Forest Service's roadless area recommendations from further litigation after Congress has made a wilderness decision.
3. We support the language contained in the Maine Wilderness bill which prohibits the creation of buffer zones around wilderness areas precluding nonwilderness uses.

In summary, we oppose the land designations in the Maine Wilderness bill because of the potential impacts on the local economy. In addition, the release language must be updated to provide certainty to decisions made under the current planning process.

Thank you for this opportunity to present our views.

Senator FOWLER. Thank you, Mr. Hammond.

Your last recommendation, you say you were glad that in the compromise there were not designated buffer zones around the proposed——

Mr. HAMMOND. No. I am sorry if I misspoke. We do approve the language. There is language in the bill which provides for no buffer zones, and we endorse that position.

Senator FOWLER. I see. I did misunderstand.

Mr. HAMMOND. I'm sorry.

Senator FOWLER. Thank you. Well, let me just stay with you for a moment, Mr. Hammond. Do you or would you be satisfied and support the compromise if we took your recommendations on the release language?

Mr. HAMMOND. My own personal view, and the view of a lot of people in the area that I live, is that we are very concerned about the set-aside of the entire 12,000 acres. The 4,300 we can consider well-managed forest. The 7,700, the topography alone would preclude it from development. I mean, it is mountaintops, it is very rugged, and that is why it is in the condition that it is in now.

But with the overwhelming support of the delegation, we feel that passage is probably unavoidable, and if it is passed I am very concerned that the release language be in there to provide for the 4,000 acres that Senator Cohen referred to, that we are trying to set aside for multiple use. I am afraid if we don't change the language and we use the RARE II—if we cite RARE II, that it is inappropriate and it could be open for litigation, and I would like to avoid litigation, as I am sure we all would.

Senator FOWLER. What do you think, if passed in its present form, do you think there would be any—especially since you have been living there since your grandfather's time—do you believe there would be any adverse impact on the local economy? If so, what would it be?

Mr. HAMMOND. Yes, I believe there would. Hardwood forests are limited in the southern part of Maine. That is prime hardwood that is in the White Mountain National Forest. The estimates are that 40 million board feet would be lost over the next 10-year period. That would translate into \$1.7 million. It is a small economy in that area. It is a very rural area, and 40 million feet doesn't sound like much when you are discussing the western issues, but that is enough to run a mill my size 8 years, and I employ 20 people.

I don't think that it will shut us down, but I do think it is putting more and more pressure. The pressure is not only coming from the set-asides in this area, it is also coming from development, which we have no recourse on. When a piece of land is developed, there is no hearing for us to second-guess that.

We are hoping here that we can reach even more of a compromise. We are not satisfied with the compromise as it is. We are not opposed to 7,700 acres being set aside, although I don't think it is necessary, but there is 8,000 acres of timberland and 4,300 of that is going to be set aside and not useful.

Senator FOWLER. Where do most of your hardwoods go, that you harvest and process?

Mr. HAMMOND. Most of them go into furniture manufacturing or wood turnings, dollars, secondary manufacturing in the area.

Senator FOWLER. In the State, primarily in the State?

Mr. HAMMOND. Primarily in the State, yes. A lot of it is, yes.

Senator FOWLER. Do you dispute Mr. Bley's figures that we are talking about maybe a diminution of 1.2 percent of the logging if we go with the compromise?

Mr. HAMMOND. I am not sure how he gets those. Percentages are hard to dispute. As I—

Senator FOWLER. Let's ask him how he gets them.

Mr. BLEY. Those figures are from the Forest Service itself, from their 10-year survey of the forest lands in Maine and from the White Mountain National Forest plan. They are the Forest Service's figures.

Mr. HAMMOND. My question is, the 1.2 percent, the key word I believe is the potential yield. Is that the potential yield of the entire White Mountain National Forest? We can only harvest in 50 percent of it already. When they say 1.2 percent of the potential yield, "potential" is a very vague word. Is that the potential of only what is harvestable or the potential of the entire forest. I don't know, but I do know 40 million feet came from the Forest Service, too, and that is—

Senator FOWLER. Mr. Leonard.

Mr. LEONARD. The 40 million figure is the inventory on the area. You would be, at the most, harvesting 1 percent per year, so in the decade we are talking about 4 million board feet rather than—

Mr. HAMMOND. OK, I misunderstood. I understood that to be for 10 years.

Mr. LEONARD. Of that amount, the ranger tells me that 200,000 feet per year would be sawtimber. The rest would be bulk woods, so we are talking probably 1 million, the potential of 1 million board feet per decade of sawtimber from that area.

Mr. FAVREAU. Can I ask a question? That is not keeping up with the sustained yield, is it? That is a maturing forest.

Mr. LEONARD. That is the calculated sale quantity for that—

Mr. FAVREAU. But it is not keeping up with the sustained yield.

Mr. LEONARD. Yes, that would be the sustained yield.

Mr. HAMMOND. There are a lot of mills in our area, hardwood mills, that would saw 1 million to 3 million feet a year, so it is a small amount but it is still an impact in that area. I totally disagree with the statement that it would have no impact. The amount of impact could be questioned.

Senator FOWLER. Well, obviously any set-aside for any purpose that is now being used would have some impact, I mean anywhere, in any State.

Mr. HAMMOND. The other thing that has been cited at the congressional hearing first, which kind of caught me by surprise, and here, is that there was no opposition by the snowmobile associations. I am a member of a snowmobile club in Oxford County that uses Evans Notch 4 times a year, and there is not a single member amongst our group that is in support of this bill. There is not a single member of the Denmark Draggers or the Sacopee Valley Snowmobile Club that is in support of this.

I fully intend, upon returning to the State, to have each of those individuals write a letter to both committees to clarify their position on that, because I am not quite sure. I never knew that we

had a coalition or we had a spokesman, but I do know this from personal use, that we do use that trail, and I am very concerned about what the next trail would be. They are having a hard time finding an alternative.

One of the suggestions has been to use Route 113. That would be a very dangerous situation, considering the fact in the State of Maine 6 inches of snow is not going to stop vehicular traffic, and it also would allow snowmobile traffic.

Senator FOWLER. Well, let's ask Mr. Leonard and Mr. Converse: Has the Forest Service begun or selected the alternative route for the snowmobile trail that has been mentioned?

Mr. CONVERSE. We have not selected one on the ground. We have looked at some alternatives. The route going up to Speckled Mountain, Mr. Chairman, is a one-way route, so people go up and come back down. We have a couple of other options of peaks, if you will, that we are thinking about, but we need to do some further investigation to see whether a snowmobile can get all the way to the top in the winter time or not. Route 113 is outside of the wilderness. That route would still be able to be used by the snowmobile groups.

Senator FOWLER. Mr. Leonard, you may not have the list but if you do, tell us—or maybe Mr. Converse probably knows better—which individuals and organizations were involved in drafting the White Mountain National Resource Management Plan, and to what extent is this wilderness proposal compromise encompassed in Senator Mitchell's legislation?

Mr. CONVERSE. I do have a list, Mr. Chairman, of the Maine Ad Hoc Wilderness Committee members that I can provide to you. It is in my briefcase.

Senator FOWLER. Well, if you will provide it for the record is what we would like.

[A letter and the membership list follow:]



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington
Office

14th & Independence SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, D.C. 20090-6090

Reply To: 1510

Date: APR 26 1990

Honorable Wyche Fowler, Jr.
Chairman, Subcommittee on Conservation
and Forestry
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As requested at the April 18 hearing on S. 2205 enclosed is the membership list for the ad-hoc committee that developed the consensus regarding the 12,000-acre Caribou-Speckled Mountain Wilderness proposal.

Because the consensus process took place over 6 years, some of these committee members no longer represent the organizations indicated on the enclosure.

If I can be of further help, please call.

Sincerely,

F. Dale Robertson

F. DALE ROBERTSON
Chief

Enclosure



MAINE AD HOC WILDERNESS COMMITTEE

(WINTER 1983-1984)

Jerry Bley (Co-Chair)
Natural Resources Council
271 State Street
Augusta, ME 04330
207/622-3101

Don Newell
Maine Snowmobilers Association
P.O. Box 108
Unity, ME 04988
207/948-3551

Richard Brown
Appalachian Mountain Club
19 Sylvan Road
Hallowell, ME 04347
207/289-3101

Frank Farren
(Maine WMNF Working Group)
27 Lambert Avenue
Augusta, ME 04330
207/289-3821

Bill Plouffe
Maine Audubon Society
118 Route One
Falmouth, ME 04105
207/781-2330

Karl Scott¹
James River Corporation
17 12th Street
Berlin, NH 03570
603/752-4600

Bill Hine
Sierra Club
P.O. Box 18
East Peru, ME 04229
207/562-8278

Senator Donald Twitchell²
3 Packard Avenue
Norway, ME 04268
207/743-2419

Burm Garland (Co-Chair)¹
Saunders Brothers
Fryeburg, ME 04037
207/935-2091

John C. Laban¹
P.H. Chadbourne & Co.
RD #2, Box 1407
Bethel, ME 04217
207/836-3331

Albert Carey
Oxford County Commissioner
RFD #1, Box 1230
South Paris, ME 04281
207/743-2821

Ed Cummings¹
C.B. Cummings & Sons Co.
Drawer 346
Norway, ME 04268
207/743-6326

Annee Tara
Maine Department of Conservation
State House
Augusta, ME 04333
207/289-2211

John Jaworski
Androscoggin Valley Council
of Governments
70 Court Street
Auburn, ME 04210
207/783-9186

Rep. Laurence Kiesman²
R.R. 1, Box 10
Fryeburg, ME 04037
207/289-2866 or 935-2792

¹ Forest Products Industry Representative

² State Legislator

Senator FOWLER. To respond to Mr. Hammond's inquiry, who represented the snowmobile runners' association.

Mr. CONVERSE. Mr. Chairman, I believe it was Mr. Don Newell, who is president of the Maine Snowmobilers Association, who was a member of that ad hoc committee.

Mr. FAVREAU. May I make a comment? The current president is Hiram Davis, who is also a member of the Multiple Use Association. Mr. Newell was the previous president.

Senator FOWLER. Well——

Mr. LEONARD. Mr. Chairman, it is my understanding that the legislation tracks the recommendation in the forest plan, that it is the same area exactly.

Senator FOWLER. Good. Thank you.

Mr. Favreau, does your organization support any wilderness designations?

Mr. FAVREAU. Yes, we do.

Senator FOWLER. Where?

Mr. FAVREAU. We think that wilderness is good in the unique areas, we think that the Great Gulf Area in New Hampshire, a section of the White Mountain National Forest, is a good wilderness area. We think a lot of the Pemigewasset is good. That area does have about 30,000 acres of good timberland that is going to die, and so we don't think that area is good.

We are just very much opposed to taking land out of production just for that sake, and we think that Caribou-Speckled is one of these cases, because over on the New Hampshire side the wilderness areas are more spectacular than what we have here. That is why Caribou-Speckled isn't used as much. There are only 7,200 visitor-days per year use, so that I don't believe is a large amount, but also people can get good solitude because of that, whether it is harvested or not.

Senator FOWLER. I ask this with respect, but I must say that I listened very carefully to your three points on the reasons for your opposition. One of them was that it hurts wildlife management. I hear that a lot from multiple use organizations, that wildlife is going to be hurt unless it gets managed. What do you reckon the Good Lord did——

Mr. FAVREAU. There was less——

Senator FOWLER [continuing]. Before we had wildlife managers, when animals just had to make do the way they could, without man around to help them?

Mr. FAVREAU. In different parts of the country it might be different, but in my briefcase I have a graph⁶ of the wildlife numbers for different designations—not designations but different alternatives in the original White Mountain National Forest Plan. The one that had the most wildlife was going to have 446,000 acres open to harvesting. Then as you reduce the amount of area, it goes down substantially.

The reason for this is that—again, I say, it might be different in different parts of the country—but our area needs forest floor vegetation for wildlife to have food. My home is on a 20-acre parcel that

⁶ See p. 35 for the bar graph, "Wildlife Habitat Capability."

was harvested before we built our house, and we just have wildlife all over the place, and I just know that if it hadn't been harvested, they wouldn't be there. I would see bigger trees.

Even John Lanier, the wildlife biologist in the White Mountain National Forest, says that 90 percent of our wildlife species benefit from tree growth between 0 and 10 years, and young succession, sometime in their lives. But if you get side-by-side, and for every wild forest and a young growth forest, you can feel the health on one and the other one is drab in comparison, and you just don't have forest floor vegetation for the wildlife. They just are literally driven out. There are very few species that live well in an old growth forest, but they also live well in a matching stand of a multiple forest in our area. The best of all worlds is to have a mosaic between old growth and young growth, and alternate it over long periods of time.

But I would be glad to leave a copy of that graph for you and get you more information on that, if you would like. [See pp. 32-38 for the material supplied by Mr. Favreau.]

Senator FOWLER. I will be glad to have it and include it in the total record.

Mr. Leonard, in your opinion, is this land suitable for wilderness designation?

Mr. LEONARD. Yes, sir, it is.

Senator FOWLER. In the opinion of the Forest Service, would there be any significant impact on timber production or the rural economies?

Mr. LEONARD. The land that is included in this, the 12,000 acres including the 4,000 acres that is suitable for growing timber, is not currently in the timber base of the forest. It has been removed from the timber base of the forest, so there is no impact of classification on the allowable sale quantity from that forest, no.

It, of course, has the potential if it is not classified, of a decision which would put it back in the suitable land base, but since the RARE II or since the forest plan has been out, that land has been out of the timber base on which the harvest level for the forest was established, and that is the basis for the judgment that it doesn't have any impact, because that land is not part of the timber base today.

Senator FOWLER. And what does the Forest Service see as the primary benefits of this proposal?

Mr. LEONARD. Much as has been expressed by Senator Cohen and others, there is a very limited amount of undeveloped land in the State, and this preserves that segment of that for the long term. It provides opportunities which are not available on the managed lands.

The Forest Service certainly believes that there are lots of recreation and other opportunities on managed forest land. We don't always support everybody's suggestion for wilderness, but in this particular setting we believe that designation of this land as wilderness is an appropriate part of rounding out the recreational and other opportunities that are available on that forest.

Senator FOWLER. Mr. Bley, were you a part of the compromise? Were you in those negotiations?

Mr. BLEY. Yes, I was.

Senator FOWLER. Since the compromise has been struck, have there developed any significant problems between any of the participating organization as a result—as Mr. Favreau was suggesting—of changes in leadership or anything like that?

Mr. BLEY. None of the parties that were a part of that compromise have changed their position. It is true that Mr. Favreau has created the Multiple Use Association, and I think very effectively has garnered some support for his particular point of view, but all those who were involved—which included the State of Maine, the Department of Conservation, the Maine Snowmobilers Association, the regional planners, local representatives, the State government, the representatives of the timber industry that were part of that compromise, which obviously are not Mr. Favreau and others in the Multiple Use Association, the conservation groups—have all stuck by that decision and plan to continue to do so.

Mr. FAVREAU. May I make a comment?

Senator FOWLER. Mr. Favreau.

Mr. FAVREAU. All the pro-use people who were on that panel, other than government people, are all supportive of the Multiple Use Association. In fact, most of them are members now.

Mr. HAMMOND. Also if I could comment on that—

Senator FOWLER. Yes, Mr. Hammond.

Mr. HAMMOND [continuing]. A colleague of mine, Henry Saunders, was a participant in the negotiations, though he was not a member of the ad hoc committee. He was one of the primary people who struck the compromise. In researching this just prior to coming down, I spoke with several of his employees—Paul Lusky, Burm Garland, to be specific—and they indicated to me, though I didn't have a chance to talk with Henry Saunders, that he had second thoughts about this compromise. He did not necessarily want to remove himself from the endorsement, but he really has nothing to risk there because he was not part of the committee, though he worked on the compromise. But Burm Garland, who was on the committee, does not agree with this compromise at this point.

Mr. BLEY. Mr. Chairman, let me make it very clear, we never got any closer philosophically than we started out, but we realized that there were differing points of view, and in the interest of trying to provide for a reasonable future for this area, trying to accommodate everyone's interest to the greatest degree possible, the compromise was hammered out.

My organization began with a very strong interest in protecting 16,000 acres of wilderness. We still very much have that interest. We agreed to those negotiations, to the proposal that is before you today, and it is on that basis that I am here supporting this compromise proposal.

Mr. HAMMOND. If I may—

Senator FOWLER. I will reserve the last word, so go ahead, Mr. Hammond.

Mr. HAMMOND [continuing]. That is the further concern, is the release language, and exactly what Mr. Bley just said, that he is very interested in the 16,000 acres. That is our concern, that we don't want the additional 4,000 acres which Senator Cohen, Senator Mitchell, and both of the congressional representatives had de-

cided in the compromise should be set aside for multiple use, we don't want that tied up in litigation——

Senator FOWLER. I understand that. I understand.

Mr. HAMMOND [continuing]. Because we are referring to RARE II.

Senator FOWLER. Thank you. Well, we will study it very carefully. There is nothing unique about the controversy, of course, of setting aside any land. Mr. Leonard spoke the truth. The Forest Service, I can tell you from experience, does not support every wilderness designation that is offered, despite what some people in the private sector want to believe. These are very difficult land use questions, for all the reasons that have been raised here today.

However, I must add—though I have not studied the proposal, and I will—that it is rare to have a compromise agreement that has been hammered out among competing uses, citizen organizations within the State, and that will certainly move this matter to the forefront of its consideration by the committee, because it is unusual when we have a compromise that has been reached before it comes to us in legislative form.

I think your questions about the release language are legitimate. We will study it before a decision is made, and I thank you all for your participation and helpfulness.

Mr. LEONARD. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator FOWLER. Thank you very much.

[Whereupon, at 4:30 p.m., the subcommittee adjourned subject to the call of the Chair.]

[Material submitted for inclusion in the record follows:]

APPENDIX

PREPARED STATEMENT OF MICHAEL L. CLINE, THE MAINE AUDUBON SOCIETY, FALMOUTH, ME

PROPOSED CARIBOU-SPECKLED WILDERNESS AREA

The Maine Audubon Society, and its over 7,000 member-households, strongly support the designation of the Caribou-Speckled Wilderness Area. It is clearly the only tract of public land in the southern half of the State that possesses the unique natural features that could be afforded wilderness protection.

Wilderness designation for Caribou-Speckled will protect an important small portion of Maine in its natural state for the public and future generations to enjoy. It will provide unique hiking, camping, hunting, and other traditional outdoor activities that cannot be experienced in any other portion of southern Maine. While timber harvesting will not be permitted in the 12,000-acre area, the U.S. Forest Service maintains that this will have no discernible impact on local wood using industries.

In addition to recreational experiences, the wilderness designation will provide special wildlife opportunities that other areas simply cannot offer. This may be the only chance to set aside a portion of land to develop baseline information about the life and death of an old growth hardwood forest in southern Maine. It will provide an opportunity to compare the dynamics of tree growth in managed and unmanaged forests and provide information very important in "acid rain" or global climate change research. In this way, wilderness designation will actually assist the forest industry by helping scientists better understand how forests grow and how they are affected by human activities.

Maine Audubon played a leadership role in brokering the compromise between environmental groups and forest industry a number of years ago. The current proposal to set aside 12,000 acres as wilderness has broad based, statewide support. With the numerous pressures being exerted upon the northern forest, the Caribou-Speckled Wilderness Area is a classic example of looking at the entire multiple-use picture, and planning for a sustainable, diverse forest for the future.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF BILL HINE, MAINE GROUP OF THE SIERRA CLUB

The Maine Group of the Sierra Club supports the proposed legislation designating 12,000 acres surrounding Caribou and Speckled Mountains in the White Mountain National Forest in Maine as permanently protected wilderness.

Wilderness designation for the Caribou-Speckled area has been a goal of the Sierra Club since its testimony to Congress in May 1973. The area's wilderness values remain undiminished 17 years later, thanks largely to delays in the management process. Congressional directives, judicial reviews, public scopings, committee deliberations, administrative appeals, budget constraints, etc., have all bought time for Caribou-Speckled. But can we expect "protection by default" to continue another 17 years? What is needed now is a determined management plan backed by legislative mandate. The U.S. Forest Service has the former; Congress must now provide the latter. The Maine Wilderness Act of 1990 is based on the Forest Service's recommendation for permanent protection of a Caribou-Speckled Wilderness.

The area is deserving of such designation. It offers a degree of solitude not found in other, more heavily used parts of the White Mountain National Forest. The summits of Caribou and Speckled Mountains are easily accessible to hikers, and their broad open qualities include the mature hardwood forests on the lower slopes and the rapid, abundant streamflow cascading down the mountainsides. Ideally suited to

outdoor recreation, the area looks like wilderness and feels like wilderness. Let's call it wilderness.

Critics of wilderness legislation who presume a negative economic impact typically underestimate the contribution of such recreational pursuits as hiking, camping, and hunting to the economies of northern New Hampshire and western Maine. They also overestimate the importance of the Caribou-Speckled area as a timber resource. Only one-third of the proposed wilderness parcel is classifiable as commercial woodland, and the potential yield is but a tiny fraction of the total potential yield of the WMNF. With actual harvests forest-wide falling far short of the potential, it is difficult to believe that the small supply in the Caribou-Speckled area will ever be missed.

The 12,000-acre area now considered for wilderness designation, though a small piece of Maine, is a large portion of the federally owned land in Maine. It represents the last and only chance for Congress to establish permanent wilderness in a State that is rapidly succumbing to intense development pressures.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF JAMES A. ST. PIERRE, DIRECTOR, MAINE OFFICE, THE
WILDERNESS SOCIETY, AUGUSTA, ME

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am James A. St. Pierre, Director of the Maine Office of The Wilderness Society. I am pleased to have this opportunity on behalf of The Society's 360,000 members to strongly endorse this bill.

Conservationists have worked for nearly two decades trying to secure strong safeguards for the lands in the 16,000 acre Caribou-Speckled Mountain Area of the White Mountain National Forest. This is one of the few remaining unprotected Federal roadless areas east of the Mississippi. It contains rare alpine plant and wildlife habitat, mature forest, spectacular vistas from five major peaks, and some of the best backcountry hiking in southern Maine.

In 1984, after extensive study, an advisory committee established by the Maine congressional delegation, comprised of environmental organizations, forest industry representatives, snowmobilers, and State and local governments, recommended that 12,000 acres be designated wilderness and 4,000 acres be released for timber harvesting and other uses. The U.S. Forest Service endorsed that compromise recommendation.

Following several years of additional public hearings and scrutiny, on February 28, 1990, the Maine delegation unanimously introduced the Maine Wilderness Act of 1990 (H.R. 4145/S. 2205), which would add the 12,000-acre Caribou-Speckled Mountain Wilderness to the National Wilderness Preservation System. The only other federally designated wilderness in Maine is 4,000 acres of grassland in the Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge. While the proposed legislation is a compromise, it is heartening to see the introduction of this bill, which would protect most of the Caribou-Speckled area. It is essential that the 12,000-acre Caribou-Speckled Wilderness be created to ensure the long term protection of this spectacular region.

Elaboration on the qualities of the Caribou-Speckled area, the history of efforts to forge a reasonable compromise leading up to this point, and the need for this legislation are being provided to the committee by the Natural Resources Council of Maine. The Council deserves particular credit for its leadership in working with our organization and others for wilderness designation of the Caribou-Speckled area over the past several years.

The Wilderness Society thanks Senators Mitchell and Cohen and Representatives Snowe and Brennan for introducing the bill, the only new wilderness proposal introduced into Congress this year, and urges swift approval of the Maine Wilderness Act of 1990.

Thank you for the chance to submit this statement in support of the Caribou-Speckled Wilderness proposal.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF RICHARD R. BROWN, APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB, MAINE
CHAPTER, PORTLAND, ME

My name is Richard R. Brown and I am a resident of Farmingdale, Maine. I am representing the Appalachian Mountain Club's Maine Chapter. I had the privilege of serving the committee which arrived at the compromise of 12,000 acres. I am also a member of AMC's White Mountain National Forest Committee, and speak for the entire AMC in behalf of H.R. 4145.

STATEMENT OF ELLERBE P. COLE TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
IN BEHALF OF THE ABNAKI SKI AND OUTING CLUB OF AUGUSTA, MAINE
FAVORING INCLUSION OF THE CARIBOU-SPECKLED MOUNTAIN AREA IN THE
NATIONAL WILDERNESS SYSTEM

I am grateful to Mr. Jerry Bley of the Natural Resources Council of Maine, who has kindly consented to present to you this statement of the views of the Abnaki Ski and Outing Club of Augusta, which is one of Maine's oldest and largest indigenous hiking and conservation groups.

Members of the Abnaki Ski and Outing Club lead trips of all kinds most weekends of the year. Its more experienced members are familiar with a great deal of the terrain of the state. I have led such trips in most of the fourteen years in which I have been a member. Most of the trips I have led are to the Evans Notch region of Oxford County, Maine, which I visit annually, and which is the area I judge to be preeminently beautiful and impressive for its natural features among all inland parts of Maine, save only Baxter State Park and its Mount Katahdin, the northern terminus of the Appalachian Trail.

I have attached to this statement a copy of an Appalachian Mountain Club map of the Evans Notch region, for reference as I describe its outstanding characteristics. On that map, I have indicated in three sides of a relatively large square the area under discussion, and I have circled a summit, a chain, and a range which I refer to farther on in this statement.

Relatively few people know that a portion of the White Mountain National Forest does not lie in New Hampshire, but in Maine, accessible by car only from Maine's Route 113, the Evans Notch Road, which runs south from U.S. Route 2 and the Androscoggin River just west of Gilead. The road parallels the Wild River for about four miles, and then Evans Brook for another four. In that stretch one passes, among others of Evans Brook's feeder streams, Morrison and Mud Brooks, along which lies the 7-mile loop trail to the summit of Caribou Mountain, which has an elevation of 2828'. Eight miles into the region on the Evans Notch Road brings one to the Notch itself, from which there are very impressive views to the southwest. The Spruce Hill Trail, one of the routes up Speckled Mountain (elev. 2877'), leads east from the Notch. Just short of four miles farther on is the access to the Bickford Brook Trail up Speckled, from which by side-trails one can see the spectacular upper and lower falls and slides of the Brook.

It is, of course, the views from the summits, the highest in the Maine portion of the White Mountain National Forest, which are most impressive. In some weathers, one can see Old Speck (elev. 4180'), in Grafton Notch, some 20 miles north by the crow, with around 45 intervening lesser peaks and summits within only 60 degrees or so of arc. Ten or eleven miles due west, and paralleling the Evans Notch Road on a north-south axis, stands the great western wall of the New Hampshire White Mountains, the Carter-Moriah Range, which stretches across seven miles and consists of Carter Dome, Mt. Hight, South, Middle and North Carter, the Imp, and Mt. Moriah, Middle Moriah, and Shelburne Moriah, nine summits having an average elevation of 4267', an extraordinary sight, with Mount Washington, the highest mountain in the Presidential Range, in view beyond. To the southwest from Caribou and Speckled one can see Chocorua and others of the southern Whites over in New Hampshire. More immediately, at a range of seven miles, are the two Baldfaces (elev. 3500' approximately), bounded on the north and south by Mount Meader and Eastman Mountain, a chain which marches north to West and East Royce, both 3000-footers.

To the northwest, north, and northeast, one can see mountain ranges stacked three and four deep, stretching away to Canada and northern Maine.

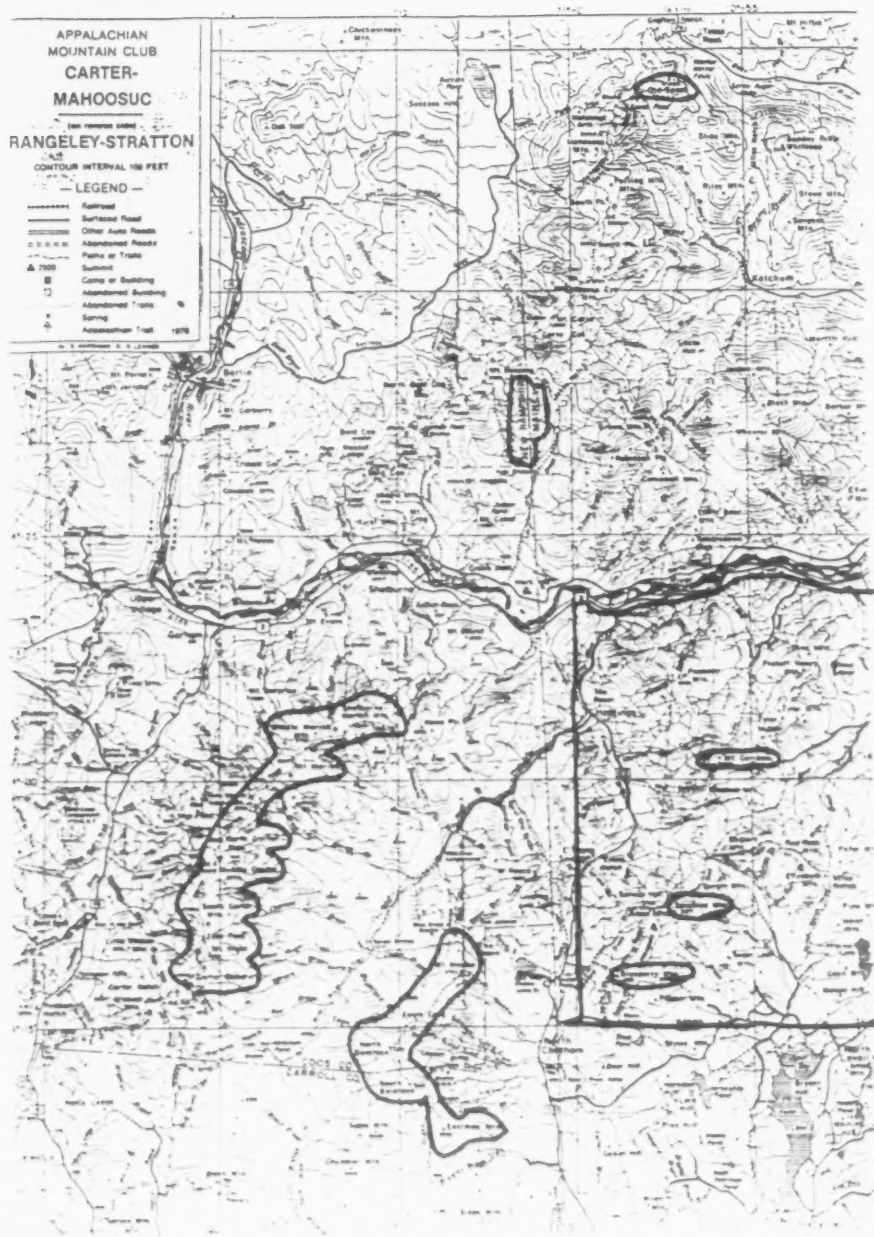
To the east, looking farther into Maine and the Caribou-Speckled roadless area, lie a multitude of lesser summits, the mountains and all intervening lower lands covered with forests, deciduous in the lower elevations with some evergreens farther up. Between Caribou Mountain and the Androscoggin River, but still east of the Notch Road, there are nine lesser peaks, some unnamed. Almost equidistantly spaced from Speckled Mountain to the northeast and east are Durgin, Butters, Red Rock, and Elizabeth Mountains, which bring one over foot-trails to Miles Notch. To the southeast and south from Speckled are a half-dozen hills and mounts. In particular I should mention Blueberry Mountain, over which runs one of the alternate descents from Speckled. This is beautiful, varied terrain, with lush mossbeds abounding. There is much exposed granite, in some of which one can see tourmaline. Spruce grouse can be relied upon to show themselves here, as well as just below the summit of Speckled. The Chatham Trail Association, an outing club in the vicinity of Evans Notch, has marked a spectacular side trail from the Blueberry Ridge Trail, which takes one to a precipitous overlook to the south, from which Kezar Lake and other inland waters are visible. On the remainder of the descent, falling towards the Bickford Brook slides and falls, one traverses a handful of impressive whaleback formations, with views out and across the notch from most of them.

The views of a number of lesser peaks in the area but outside the WMNF show the scars of clearcuts that I would take to be twenty to forty years old. They are a saddening sight, reminders of the sometimes too-heavy hand of man.

But the roadless area itself, beautiful, little-visited, varied, accessible even to children in single years, with numerous attractions for those who would seek them out, is a preeminent candidate for inclusion within the National Wilderness System. The timber standing on these lands is increasingly impressive in its dimensions, particularly the tulip-poplar, or "popple," as Maine folks call it, yet it constitutes only a small fraction of a fraction of the hardwood inventory of the State. The area proposed for wilderness designation is only three-fourths of the total roadless area available, the result of compromise that has already occurred among local woodcutters and state and local environmental, conservation, and outdoor recreation interests.

Areas of Evans Notch and the Wild River immediately outside the proposed wilderness area figure in any history of the logging industry in Maine. Railroad track for workhorse locomotives once ran where part of Route 113 does today. The river was once the site of water mills, which were almost perennially carried away by spring freshets. A lot of men labored long and hard over these lands for many years in a now-distant era. Through suspension of timber harvesting practices, the WMNF Superintendent has enabled the proposed Caribou-Speckled Mountain Wilderness Area to rest and recuperate from selective thinning in the lower elevations for a decade and a half or more. It is time to let the land rest in perpetuity. Inclusion of Caribou-Speckled in the National Wilderness System will ensure further restoration of the land to itself, by the removal of the few remaining signs of man, and will preserve the experience of wilderness for Americans in this one site in Maine for all time. You should have no hesitation in reporting out favorably legislation to add this site to the national wilderness inventory.

Thank you for the opportunity to describe this area to you, and to present these views in behalf of the Abnaki Ski and Outing Club.



101ST CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2205

To designate certain lands in the State of Maine as wilderness.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 28 (legislative day, JANUARY 23), 1990

Mr. MITCHELL (for himself and Mr. COHEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To designate certain lands in the State of Maine as wilderness.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

4 This Act may be cited as the "Maine Wilderness Act of
5 1990".

6 SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS AREAS.

7 In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act (16
8 U.S.C. 1131-1136), certain lands in the White Mountain
9 National Forest, in the State of Maine—

10 (1) which comprise approximately twelve thousand
11 acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled

1 “Caribou-Speckled Mountain Wilderness—Pro-
2 posed”, dated January 1987; and

3 (2) which shall be known as the Caribou-Speckled
4 Mountain Wilderness,

5 are hereby designated wilderness, and, therefore, as compo-
6 nents of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

7 **SEC. 3. MAPS AND DESCRIPTIONS.**

8 As soon as practicable after enactment of this Act, the
9 Secretary of Agriculture shall file a map and a legal descrip-
10 tion of the wilderness area designated by this Act with the
11 Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs and the Commit-
12 tee on Agriculture of the United States House of Representa-
13 tives and with the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and
14 Forestry of the United States Senate. The map and descrip-
15 tion shall have the same force and effect as if included in this
16 Act, except that correction of clerical and typographical
17 errors in such map and description may be made by the Sec-
18 retary. The map and description shall be on file and available
19 for public inspection in the Office of the Chief of the Forest
20 Service, Department of Agriculture.

21 **SEC. 4. ADMINISTRATION OF WILDERNESS.**

22 Subject to valid existing rights, the wilderness area des-
23 ignated by this Act shall be administered by the Secretary of
24 Agriculture in accordance with the provisions of the Wilder-
25 ness Act governing areas designated by that Act as wilder-

1 ness, except that any reference in such provisions to the ef-
2 fective date of the Wilderness Act shall be deemed to be a
3 reference to the date of enactment of this Act.

4 **SEC. 5. WILDERNESS REVIEW CONCERNS.**

5 (a) **FINDINGS.**—The Congress finds that—

6 (1) the Department of Agriculture has completed
7 the second roadless area review and evaluation pro-
8 gram (RARE II); and

9 (2) the Congress has made its own review and ex-
10 amination of National Forest System roadless areas in
11 the Maine section of the White Mountain National
12 Forest and of the environmental impacts associated
13 with alternative allocations of such areas.

14 (b) **DETERMINATION.**—On the basis of such review, the
15 Congress hereby determines and directs that—

16 (1) without passing on the question of the legal
17 and factual sufficiency of the RARE II final environ-
18 mental statement (dated January 1979) with respect to
19 National Forest System lands in the State of Maine;
20 such statement shall not be subject to judicial review
21 with respect to National Forest System lands in the
22 State of Maine;

23 (2) with respect to the National Forest System
24 lands in the State of Maine which were reviewed by
25 the Department of Agriculture in the second roadless

1 area review and evaluation (RARE II) and those lands
2 referred to in subsection (d), that review and evaluation
3 or reference shall be deemed for the purposes of the
4 initial land management plans required for such lands
5 by the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources
6 Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National
7 Forest Management Act of 1976, to be an adequate
8 consideration of the suitability of such lands for inclu-
9 sion in the National Wilderness Preservation System
10 and the Department of Agriculture shall not be re-
11 quired to review the wilderness option prior to the re-
12 visions of the plans, but shall review the wilderness
13 option when the plans are revised, which revisions will
14 ordinarily occur on a ten-year cycle, or at least every
15 fifteen years, unless, prior to such time, the Secretary
16 of Agriculture finds that conditions in a unit have sig-
17 nificantly changed;

18 (3) areas in the State of Maine reviewed in such
19 final environmental statement or referenced in subsec-
20 tion (d) and not designated wilderness upon enactment
21 of this Act shall be managed for multiple use in ac-
22 cordance with land management plans pursuant to sec-
23 tion 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Re-
24 sources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the Na-
25 tional Forest Management Act of 1976: *Provided, That*

1 such areas need not be managed for the purpose of
2 protecting their suitability for wilderness designation
3 prior to or during revision of the initial land manage-
4 ment plans;

5 (4) in the event that revised land management
6 plans in the State of Maine are implemented pursuant
7 to section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable
8 Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the
9 National Forest Management Act of 1976, and other
10 applicable law, areas not recommended for wilderness
11 designation need not be managed for the purpose of
12 protecting their suitability for wilderness designation
13 prior to or during revision of such plans, and areas rec-
14 ommended for wilderness designation shall be managed
15 for the purpose of protecting their suitability for wilder-
16 ness designation as may be required by the Forest and
17 Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of
18 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management
19 Act of 1976, and other applicable law; and

20 (5) unless expressly authorized by Congress, the
21 Department of Agriculture shall not conduct any fur-
22 ther statewide roadless area review and evaluation of
23 National Forest System lands in the State of Maine for
24 the purpose of determining their suitability for inclusion
25 in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

1 (c) REVISION.—As used in this section, and as provided
2 in section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Re-
3 sources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National
4 Forest Management Act of 1976, the term “revision” shall
5 not include an “amendment” to a plan.

6 (d) APPLICATION OF SECTION.—The provisions of this
7 section shall also apply to National Forest System roadless
8 lands in the State of Maine which are less than 5,000 acres
9 in size.

10 SEC. 6. PROHIBITION ON BUFFER ZONES.

11 Congress does not intend that the designation of a wil-
12 derness area in the State of Maine lead to the creation of
13 protective perimeters or buffer zones around the wilderness
14 area. The fact that nonwilderness activities or uses can be
15 seen or heard from within the wilderness area shall not, of
16 itself, preclude such activities or uses up to the boundary of
17 the wilderness area.

18 SEC. 7. CONTROL OF FIRE, INSECTS, AND DISEASES.

19 As provided in section 4(d)(1) of the Wilderness Act,
20 such measures may be taken within wilderness areas desig-
21 nated by this Act as may be necessary in the control of fire,
22 insects, and diseases, subject to applicable laws and such ad-
23 ditional reasonable conditions as the Secretary deems desira-
24 ble. This shall include the use of herbicides for plant and

1 noxious weed control and the practice of reseeding a badly
2 damaged area.

3 **SEC. 8. STATE FISH AND WILDLIFE AUTHORITY.**

4 As provided in section 4(d)(7) of the Wilderness Act,
5 nothing in this Act shall be construed as affecting the juris-
6 diction or responsibilities of the State of Maine with respect
7 to wildlife and fish in the national forests in Maine.

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